
SENATE BILL 6483

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove and Hatfield

Read first time 01/15/10. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting natural wildlife management planning;
2 adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the fish and
5 wildlife of Washington state are among the most important of its
6 natural resources, and that fish and wildlife provide vital cultural,
7 recreational, aesthetic, and economic contributions to the state. In
8 order to continue to enjoy these benefits, the state must continue to
9 work to conserve its existing fish and wildlife resources and recover
10 its threatened and endangered species.

11 However, the legislature also recognizes that fish and wildlife
12 management and recovery activities sometimes have unintended
13 consequences. Intervention in the propagation and dispersal of a fish
14 or wildlife species has the potential to cause genetic change to a
15 population. For example, studies have shown that artificial
16 propagation of Pacific salmon species can result in adverse changes to
17 the genetics of the wild salmon population.

18 Therefore, the legislature intends to encourage the use of natural
19 fish and wildlife propagation and dispersal methods and to minimize

1 unintended consequences from artificial propagation and dispersal
2 activities in the future. The legislature does not seek to interfere
3 with management and recovery activities already underway for a
4 particular species, such as existing hatchery programs, or to prohibit
5 future artificial propagation or dispersal of fish and wildlife.
6 Instead, the legislature intends to ensure additional policy review for
7 artificial propagation and dispersal activities by directly reviewing
8 future proposals.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 The department must obtain specific legislative authorization prior
12 to implementing a species management, recovery, or reintroduction plan
13 that recognizes a method of propagation or dispersal other than natural
14 propagation or dispersal where:

15 (1) The plan is approved for implementation on or after the
16 effective date of this section; and

17 (2) The method of dispersal or propagation, other than natural
18 dispersal or propagation, recognized in the plan is not currently
19 employed by the department for that species.

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