
SENATE BILL 6794

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen and Shin

Read first time 01/28/10. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordination of natural resource landowner
2 incentive programs by the conservation commission; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 89.08 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 89.08 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds there are several state agencies
8 implementing programs providing incentive programs for landowners to
9 assist them in managing private lands to minimize impacts to the
10 state's natural resources. These programs provide benefits not only to
11 the people of the state through the protection and improvement of
12 shared resources, but also allow private landowners to continue
13 managing their lands. These incentive programs also create
14 opportunities to enhance state natural resource values in an approach
15 that engages landowners as key participants in supporting these
16 activities. Because of the number of incentive programs offered to
17 landowners by state, federal, local, and other entities, the
18 opportunities can be confusing for landowners and these services may
19 not be provided in the most efficient manner possible. Furthermore,

1 the implementation of these programs should be conducted in a manner
2 that ensures these incentive programs resources are improving natural
3 resource conditions. The state conservation commission and
4 conservation districts are ideally situated to coordinate the service
5 delivery of incentive-based natural resources programs to agricultural
6 and small acreage landowners in a manner that supports and better uses
7 existing programs at various agencies in a more efficient, targeted,
8 and accountable approach.

9 (2)(a) As the state conservation commission implements existing
10 authority in RCW 89.08.070(6) for the coordination of agricultural
11 landowner incentive programs in the state, the commission is directed
12 to work with state, federal, local, and tribal governments, and with
13 nongovernmental organizations, to identify methods and opportunities to
14 more efficiently and effectively implement landowner incentive
15 programs. The commission shall also work with agricultural landowners,
16 including small acreage landowners, on the incentive programs available
17 for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the state's natural
18 resources. State agencies shall coordinate with the commission and
19 districts when developing and implementing programs that address
20 agricultural landowners and agricultural landowner impacts on natural
21 resources and shall assist the commission in the implementation of RCW
22 89.08.070(8).

23 (b) When implementing this section, the commission shall consider
24 approaches that will:

25 (i) More efficiently use limited state resources;

26 (ii) Improve the effectiveness of new and existing programs to
27 achieve natural resources improvements while maintaining or enhancing
28 the potential of working lands in the state;

29 (iii) Provide for accountability in the cost efficiency and
30 resource effectiveness of the coordination of these programs; and

31 (iv) Better target and coordinate these programs to address
32 critical natural resources issues in the state.

33 (c) When implementing this section, the commission shall:

34 (i) Use the resources and skills of the various conservation
35 districts throughout the state to engage participation of local
36 landowners in these activities;

37 (ii) Coordinate with existing collaborative programs including, but
38 not limited to, the salmon recovery funding board, the recreation and

1 conservation funding board, local watershed coordinating entities,
2 local salmon recovery organizations, the Puget Sound partnership, and
3 the governor's natural resources cabinet;

4 (iii) Identify opportunities to target the delivery of incentive
5 programs to specific geographic areas to address specific natural
6 resources issues and concerns; and

7 (iv) Identify and coordinate multiagency discussions that will lead
8 to improvements to incentive programs.

9 (3)(a) The commission shall periodically report to the legislature
10 and governor on the status of this section. This report must include
11 information on:

12 (i) Activities relating to the coordination of incentive programs;

13 (ii) Progress on implementing programs on the ground;

14 (iii) The effectiveness of the coordinated approach for improving
15 natural resources;

16 (iv) Program efficiencies through improved coordination;

17 (v) Landowner engagement and participation in these programs; and

18 (vi) Other information the commission deems necessary and
19 appropriate for the successful implementation of this section.

20 (b) The commission shall also provide recommendations to the
21 legislature and governor for any program improvements to accomplish the
22 objectives of this section.

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