

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESSB 6078

As Passed Senate, February 9, 2012

Title: An act relating to implementing efficiencies in the management of the state's natural resources.

Brief Description: Implementing efficiencies in the management of the state's natural resources.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters (originally sponsored by Senators Ranker, Swecker, Regala, Kline, Schoesler, Fain, Kilmer, Harper, Shin, Litzow, Fraser, Keiser, Conway, Hargrove and Rolfes).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters: 1/11/12, 1/18/12 [DPS].
Passed Senate: 2/09/12, 47-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES & MARINE WATERS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6078 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Ranker, Chair; Delvin, Ranking Minority Member; Morton, Ranking Minority Member; Fraser and Hargrove.

Staff: Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

Background: Washington has a number of state agencies and programs involved in managing the state's natural resources and environment. These agencies include the Department of Agriculture (AGR), the Department of Ecology (DOE), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), and the State Parks and Recreation Commission (SPRC).

These agencies are arranged in an array of governance structures. For instance, DNR is led by an independently elected official. DFW and SPRC are each governed by a citizen commission with Governor-appointed members, that in turn appoint an agency director. Agencies such as AGR, DOE, RCO, and PSP are each led by a Governor appointed director.

Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill: Natural resources agencies (agencies) must develop and effectuate an ongoing process related to agency operations and resource

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management (the process). The agencies must work collaboratively with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) in developing and effectuating this process.

The process specifically requires identification and analysis of potential efficiencies through:

- Interagency Collaboration, Sharing or Consolidation of Administrative Functions, or Other Relevant Actions Identified by the Agencies. The agencies must implement actions that: would achieve efficiencies in or improve the effectiveness of agency operations and resource management; and are reasonably practicable.
- The Colocation of Offices and Facilities. In identifying colocation opportunities, the agencies must consider specified current or anticipated opportunities, including the presence of multiple offices in a particular geographic area. The agencies must implement actions that: would achieve efficiencies in or improve the effectiveness of agency operations and resource management; and are reasonably practicable. The agencies must seek to align this process with an existing statutory facility planning requirement. OFM may identify colocation opportunities for analysis by the agencies and require agencies to reconsider or implement opportunities under specified circumstances.

In developing and effectuating the process, the agencies must provide a structure for and maintain regular communication. The agencies must produce an annual report updating the Legislature on the process and its outcomes. Also, each agency must participate in the process collaboratively and within existing resources.

The agencies required to participate in the process are: AGR, DOE, DFW, DNR, RCO, PSP, SPRC, and the State Conservation Commission.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: PRO: This bill allows natural resources agencies to move forward in efforts to achieve more efficient governance, consistent with efforts already underway such as facility colocation and strategic partnerships. Agencies come in different sizes and structures, and the process should account for these differences. In supporting the bill, some of those testifying also made suggestions for changes to the original language regarding the breadth of the authority of OFM to mandate colocation actions and the criteria for determining when agencies must implement efficiencies.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Lenny Young, DNR; Joe Stohr, DFW; Jim Cahill, OFM; Tom Davis, WA Farm Bureau; Tim Young, WA Federation of State Employees.