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HOUSE BILL 1254

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Lytton, Blake, Takko, Van De Wege, Ladenburg, and Rolfes

Read first time 01/18/11. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to the institute of forest resources; amending RCW  
2 76.44.020, 76.44.030, and 76.44.050; adding new sections to chapter  
3 76.44 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there are  
6 many challenges facing the forest sector, such as climate change, loss  
7 of forest cover in rural and urban areas, forest health and fire risks,  
8 the development of environmental service markets, the enhancement of  
9 habitat and biodiversity, timber and water supply, restoration of  
10 forest ecosystems, and the economic health of forest-dependent  
11 communities that rely on the retention of working forests.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that these forest issues, which  
13 occur in both rural and urban environments, and the approaches taken to  
14 address the issues, transcend the expertise and mission of the  
15 University of Washington school of forest resources and the associated  
16 centers and cooperatives. While each of these centers and cooperatives  
17 contribute expertise and resources, the structure and continuity for  
18 the integrated, interdisciplinary approach needed to address these  
19 complex issues is lacking.

1 (3) It is the intent of the legislature for the institute of forest  
2 resources to provide the structure and continuity needed by drawing  
3 contributions from the associated centers and cooperatives into a more  
4 consolidated, collaborative, interdisciplinary, and integrated process  
5 that is responsive to the critical issues confronting the forest  
6 sector.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 76.44.020 and 1988 c 81 s 21 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 The institute of forest resources shall be administered and  
10 directed by the ~~((dean of the college))~~ director of the school of  
11 forest resources ~~((of))~~ at the University of Washington ~~((who shall~~  
12 ~~also be the director of the institute))~~.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 76.44.030 and 1979 c 50 s 5 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 (1) The institute of forest resources shall pursue coordinated  
16 research and education related to the forest ((resource)) sector and  
17 its multiple ((use)) components, including ((its)):

18 (a) Forest conservation, restoration, sustainable management, and  
19 utilization; ((its))

20 (b) The evaluation of the economic, ecological, and societal value  
21 of forest land ((use and the maintenance of its)) in both the rural and  
22 urban environment;

23 (c) The manufacture and marketing of forest products, including  
24 timber products, nontimber products, environmental services, and the  
25 provision of recreation and aesthetic values.

26 (2) The institute of forest resources must seek to provide a  
27 framework for identifying, prioritizing, funding, and conducting  
28 interdisciplinary research critical to the forest sector and the  
29 development of integrated, synthesized information and decision support  
30 tools that improve the understanding of complex forestry issues for  
31 stakeholders, policymakers, and other interested parties.

32 (3) In pursuit of these objectives, the institute of forest  
33 resources is authorized to cooperate, when cooperation advances the  
34 objectives listed in this section, with other entities, including but  
35 not limited to:

36 (a) Universities((τ));

- 1        (b) State and federal agencies(~~(, industrial institutions,)~~);  
2        (c) Conservation and environmental organizations;  
3        (d) Community and urban forestry organizations; and  
4        (e) Domestic or foreign(~~(, where such cooperation advances these~~  
5 objectives)) industrial and business institutions.

6        **Sec. 4.** RCW 76.44.050 and 1979 c 50 s 7 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8        (1) The institute (~~(is authorized to)~~) of forest resources may  
9 solicit (~~(and/or accept funds through)~~) gifts, grants, (~~(contracts, or~~  
10 institutional consulting arrangements for the prosecution of any  
11 research or education activity which it may undertake in pursuit of its  
12 objectives)) conveyances, bequests, and devices, including both real or  
13 personal property, in trust or otherwise, to be directed to the  
14 institute for carrying out the objectives of the institute as provided  
15 in this chapter.

16        (2) The institute of forest resources may solicit contracts for  
17 work, financial and in-kind contributions, and support from private  
18 industries, interest groups, federal and state sources, and other  
19 sources deemed appropriate by the director of the institute.

20        (3) The institute of forest resources may utilize separately  
21 appropriated funds of the University of Washington for the institute's  
22 operations and activities.

23        NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 76.44 RCW  
24 to read as follows:

25        (1) The director of the school of forest resources at the  
26 University of Washington shall appoint and maintain an eleven-member  
27 policy advisory committee to advise the director on policies for the  
28 institute of forest resources that are consistent with the institute's  
29 objectives as provided in this chapter.

30        (2) The membership of the policy advisory committee must represent,  
31 to the extent possible, the various interests concerned with the  
32 institute of forest resources, including state and federal agencies,  
33 tribal governments, conservation and environmental organizations, urban  
34 forestry interests, rural communities, industry, and business.

35        (3) Members of the advisory committee may not receive any salary or  
36 other compensation for service on the advisory committee. However,

1 each member may be compensated, at the discretion of the director of  
2 the institute, for each day in actual attendance at or traveling to and  
3 from meetings of the advisory committee in accordance with RCW  
4 43.03.220 together with travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
5 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 76.44 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 The director of the school of forest resources at the University of  
9 Washington shall coordinate the various cooperatives and centers within  
10 the school of forest resources to promote a holistic, efficient, and  
11 integrated approach that broadens the research and outreach programs  
12 and addresses issues facing the forest sector.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 76.44 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 The institute of forest resources shall provide progress reports  
16 regarding the coordination required under section 5 of this act and the  
17 overall activities of the institute to the appropriate committees of  
18 the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by July 1, 2012, and  
19 again by July 1, 2013. After July 1, 2013, progress reports must be  
20 delivered biennially.

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