
HOUSE BILL 1935

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Halder, Hudgins, Goodman, Angel, Wilcox, Alexander, Seaquist, Appleton, Ryu, Tarleton, Zeiger, Moscoso, and Bergquist

Read first time 02/19/13. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to state parks and recreation; amending RCW
2 79A.05.015, 79A.05.215, 79A.80.010, 79A.80.050, and 79A.80.090; adding
3 a new section to chapter 79A.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
4 79A.80 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature, in
7 recognition of the centennial of the Washington state parks system, to
8 reaffirm the intent of the legislature as expressed in section 1,
9 chapter 211, Laws of 1995: To stabilize the funding of the state parks
10 system through commitment of continuing general fund support, to affirm
11 the support of the commission form of governance, and to provide for
12 additional improvements in the funding and operation of state parks and
13 recreation. The legislature recognizes that the Washington state parks
14 and recreation commission needs to generate revenues from nonrecreation
15 usages of state parks resources at market rates, and from recreation
16 usages at reasonable rates, but that the adequate maintenance and
17 operation of the state parks system requires that there be an ongoing
18 commitment of general government resources sufficient to secure the
19 future of the state parks system.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 79A.05.015 and 1999 c 249 s 201 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 There is hereby created a "state parks and recreation commission"
4 consisting of seven citizens of the state. The members of the
5 commission shall be appointed by the governor by and with the advice
6 and consent of the senate and shall serve for a term of six years,
7 expiring on (~~December 31st~~) June 30th of (~~even~~) odd-numbered years,
8 and until their successors are appointed. In case of a vacancy, the
9 governor shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of the
10 commissioner whose office has become vacant.

11 In making the appointments to the commission, the governor shall
12 choose citizens who understand park and recreation needs and interests.
13 No person shall serve if he or she holds any elective or full-time
14 appointive state, county, or municipal office. Members of the
15 commission shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and in
16 addition shall be allowed their travel expenses incurred while absent
17 from their usual places of residence in accordance with RCW 43.03.050
18 and 43.03.060.

19 Payment of expenses pertaining to the operation of the commission
20 shall be made upon vouchers certified to by such persons as shall be
21 designated by the commission.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 79A.05.215 and 2011 c 320 s 22 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 The state parks renewal and stewardship account is created in the
25 state treasury. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all
26 receipts from user fees, concessions, leases, donations collected under
27 RCW 46.16A.090(3), and other state park-based activities shall be
28 deposited into the account. The proceeds from the recreation access
29 pass account created in RCW 79A.80.090 and the transfers from the state
30 general fund pursuant to section 8 of this act must be used for the
31 purpose of operating and maintaining state parks. Expenditures from
32 the account may be used for operating state parks, developing and
33 renovating park facilities, undertaking deferred maintenance, enhancing
34 park stewardship, and other state park purposes. Expenditures from the
35 account may be made only after appropriation by the legislature.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 79A.80.010 and 2012 c 261 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
4 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (1) "Agency" or "agencies" means the department of fish and
6 wildlife, the department of natural resources, and the parks and
7 recreation commission.

8 (2) "Annual natural investment permit" means the annual permit
9 issued by the parks and recreation commission for the purpose of
10 launching boats from the designated state parks boat launch sites.

11 (3) "Camper registration" means proof of payment of a camping fee
12 on recreational lands managed by the parks and recreation commission.

13 (4) "Day-use permit" means the permit created in RCW 79A.80.030.

14 (5) "Discover pass" means the annual pass created in RCW
15 79A.80.020.

16 (6) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
17 46.04.320 and which are required to be registered under chapter 46.16A
18 RCW. "Motor vehicle" does not include those motor vehicles exempt from
19 registration under RCW 46.16A.080 and state and publicly owned motor
20 vehicles as provided in RCW 46.16A.170.

21 (7) "Recreation site or lands" means a state park, state lands and
22 state forest lands as those terms are defined in RCW 79.02.010, natural
23 resources conservation areas as that term is defined in RCW 79.71.030,
24 natural area preserves as that term is defined in RCW 79.70.020, and
25 fish and wildlife conservation sites including water access areas, boat
26 ramps, wildlife areas, parking areas, roads, and trailheads.

27 (8) "Sno-park seasonal permit" means the seasonal permit issued by
28 the parks and recreation commission for providing access to winter
29 recreational facilities for the period of November 1st through March
30 31st.

31 (9) "Vehicle access pass" means the pass created in RCW 79A.80.040.

32 (10) "Washington state parks license plate" means the special
33 license plate recognizing Washington state parks approved in RCW
34 46.18.200.

35 **Sec. 5.** RCW 79A.80.050 and 2012 c 261 s 6 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 (1) A discover pass or a day-use permit are not required within a

1 state park for persons who have a valid camper registration, or annual
2 natural investment permit, issued by the state parks and recreation
3 commission, or for vehicles displaying a Washington state parks license
4 plate.

5 (2) The state parks and recreation commission must provide up to
6 twelve days a year where entry to state parks is free. At least three
7 of those days must be on weekends. When practicable, the free access
8 days should be timed to correspond with any similar free access days
9 planned by the national park service for national parks located in the
10 general region of high volume state parks.

11 **Sec. 6.** RCW 79A.80.090 and 2011 c 320 s 10 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The recreation access pass account is created in the state
14 treasury. All moneys received from the sale of discover passes and
15 day-use permits must be deposited into the account.

16 (2) Each fiscal biennium, the first seventy-one million dollars in
17 revenue from the sales of discover passes and day-use permits must be
18 distributed to the agencies in the following manner:

19 (a) Eight percent to the department of fish and wildlife and
20 deposited into the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170;

21 (b) Eight percent to the department of natural resources and
22 deposited into the park land trust revolving fund created in RCW
23 43.30.385; and

24 (c) Eighty-four percent to the state parks and recreation
25 commission and deposited into the state parks renewal and stewardship
26 account created in RCW 79A.05.215.

27 (3) Each fiscal biennium, revenues in excess of seventy-one million
28 dollars must be distributed equally among the agencies to the accounts
29 identified in subsection (2) of this section.

30 (4) Revenues transferred to the account from the state general fund
31 pursuant to section 8 of this act must be distributed in the same
32 proportion as sales revenue is distributed pursuant to subsection (2)
33 of this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.05 RCW
35 to read as follows:

36 On September 1st of each year, the state treasurer shall transfer

1 from the state general fund to the state parks renewal and stewardship
2 account an amount equal to the campsite rental fees and reservation
3 fees foregone pursuant to RCW 79A.05.065 during the immediately
4 preceding fiscal year.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.80 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 On September 1st of each year, the state treasurer shall transfer
8 from the state general fund to the recreation access pass account an
9 amount equal to the sales of discover passes and day-use permits during
10 the immediately preceding fiscal year. These general fund matching
11 funds must be distributed to the department of fish and wildlife, the
12 department of natural resources, and the state parks and recreation
13 commission in the same manner and in the same proportions as the sales
14 revenues would be distributed as provided in RCW 79A.80.090.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act may be known and cited as the state
16 parks and recreation centennial act.

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