

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1392

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Natural Resources & Parks, March 25, 2015

Title: An act relating to the administrative rate the recreation and conservation funding board may retain to administer the grant programs established in chapter 79A.15 RCW

Brief Description: Concerning the administrative rate the recreation and conservation funding board may retain to administer the grant programs established in chapter 79A.15 RCW.

Sponsors: Representatives Stanford, Tharinger, Dunshee and McBride; by request of Recreation and Conservation Office.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/03/15, 72-25.

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 3/12/15, 3/25/15 [DPA, DNP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Pearson, Chair; Chase, Hewitt, McAuliffe and Warnick.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Dansel, Vice Chair.

Staff: Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

Background: Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The RCO administers a number of boards, and associated grant and policy programs, relating to natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation. These programs include the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB); the Salmon Recovery Funding Board; the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office; the Invasive Species Council; as well as the Habitat and Recreational Land Coordinating Group.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). The WWRP provides funds for the acquisition and development of land for outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, and farmland preservation. Eligible recipients include state agencies, local governments, tribes, and nonprofit entities. The program includes a number of funding categories, each of which receive a specified percentage of funds appropriated by the Legislature.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The statute provides rulemaking and grant review and prioritization authority to the RCFB, which is administrated by the RCO.

WWRP Administrative Rate. The RCFB may apply up to 3 percent of funds appropriated in the capital budget for the WWRP for RCO's administrative expenses in operating the program.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments): The amount retained for WWRP administration may not exceed (1) an amount based on actual administrative costs averaged over the previous five biennia as a percentage of new WWRP appropriations; or (2) the amount specified in the WWRP appropriation, if any.

Each biennium the RCFB must submit the result of this administrative cost calculation along with the prioritized WWRP project lists. Over the previous five biennia, the RCO calculates its average administrative costs as a percentage of new WWRP appropriations at 4.3 percent.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS COMMITTEE (Recommended Amendments): Provides that the amount retained for administration may not exceed (1) the administrative cost calculation in the underlying bill; or (2) the amount specified in the appropriation, if any.

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 House Bill: PRO: Grant programs should carry their own administrative weight so costs of that program do not spill into other programs. This bill will improve fiscal accountability, and cover administrative costs for new requirements and IT that promotes public access to grant information.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Kaleen Cottingham, RCO.

Persons Signed in to Testify But Not Testifying: No one.