

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2493

As of February 24, 2016

Title: An act relating to extending the expiration date of the habitat and recreation lands coordinating group.

Brief Description: Extending the expiration date of the habitat and recreation lands coordinating group.

Sponsors: Representatives Smith and Tharinger; by request of Recreation and Conservation Office.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/17/16, 98-0.

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 2/24/16.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

Background: Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands Group), Generally. In 2007, the Legislature established the Lands Group consisting of representatives from specified natural resources agencies, as well as representatives of local government and stakeholder organizations invited to participate by the director of the Recreation and Conservation Office.

The statutory duties of the Lands Group include producing a biennial forecast of land acquisition and disposal plans, convening an annual forum for agencies to coordinate near-term acquisition and disposal plans, and developing an approach for monitoring the success of acquisitions.

Expiration Date for Lands Group Authorization. The Lands Group was initially authorized for five years, and was set to expire on July 31, 2012. In 2012, the Legislature extended the Lands Group for five additional years until July 31, 2017.

Summary of Bill: The statutory authorization for the Lands Group is extended by 10 years until July 31, 2027. Prior to January 1, 2027, the Lands Group must provide a recommendation to the Legislature on whether it should continue.

Appropriation: None.

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.

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: PRO: This bill allows the Lands Group to continue its important work. Over the years, the Lands Group has had a positive impact on stewardship issues on state lands. In particular, openness and transparency have been improved for state land acquisition and disposal.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Rep. Smith, Prime Sponsor; Kaleen Cottingham, Recreation and Conservation Office.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.