
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1654

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Peterson, Lytton, Fitzgibbon, Blake, and Walkinshaw)

READ FIRST TIME 02/16/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to controlling noxious weeds while still
2 supporting pollen-rich forage plant communities for honey bees;
3 amending RCW 17.10.145; adding a new section to chapter 43.220 RCW;
4 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The state noxious weed control board
7 shall conduct a pilot project that evaluates the advantages of
8 purposefully replacing pollen and nectar-rich noxious weeds, such as
9 knapweeds and nonnative thistles, which are productive forage plants
10 for honey bees, with either native or noninvasive, nonnative forage
11 plants that can produce similar levels of pollen and nectar to
12 support honey bee populations. The pilot project must be developed to
13 maximize the dual public benefits of reducing noxious weeds in
14 Washington and maintaining access to pollen and nectar-rich plants
15 for honey bees and apiarists.

16 (2) In implementing the pilot project, the state noxious weed
17 control board must coordinate with managers of state or federal
18 public lands, which may include providing plant starts, seed packs,
19 and other goods or services necessary to replace noxious weeds with
20 either native or noninvasive, nonnative plants or to create, in

1 conjunction with noxious weed control efforts, new forage patches for
2 honey bees and other pollinators.

3 (3) The implementation details of the pilot project required by
4 this section are at the sole discretion of the state noxious weed
5 control board, including the selection of pilot project partners and
6 participants. However, if possible, pilot project partners should be
7 located in both eastern and western Washington.

8 (4) The state noxious weed control board must issue a report to
9 the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, that outlines the
10 successes and challenges of the pilot project. This report must be
11 presented by October 31, 2017, and include:

12 (a) Assessments of the acceptance level by public land managers
13 and the apiary industry;

14 (b) An analysis of the costs and benefits of using plant
15 replacement as a strategy for satisfying the two public benefits of
16 the pilot project; and

17 (c) Any recommendations for extending the pilot project or using
18 the lessons learned as part of Washington's overall noxious weed
19 control strategy.

20 (5) This section expires June 30, 2018.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 17.10.145 and 1997 c 353 s 18 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (1) All state agencies shall control noxious weeds on lands they
24 own, lease, or otherwise control through integrated pest management
25 practices. Agencies shall develop plans in cooperation with county
26 noxious weed control boards to control noxious weeds in accordance
27 with standards in this chapter.

28 (2) All state agencies' lands must comply with this chapter,
29 regardless of noxious weed control efforts on adjacent lands.

30 (3) While conducting planned projects to ensure compliance with
31 this chapter, all agencies must give preference, when deemed
32 appropriate by the acting agency for the project and targeted
33 resource management goals, to replacing pollen-rich or nectar-rich
34 noxious weeds with native forage plants that are beneficial for all
35 pollinators, including honey bees.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.220
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 Any corps project that involves the removal of noxious weeds
2 must, when deemed appropriate for the project goals by the project
3 sponsor, include the planting of pollen-rich and nectar-rich native
4 plants to provide forage for all pollinators, including honey bees.

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