
HOUSE BILL 1954

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representative Pike

Read first time 02/04/15. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a task force on the Columbia river
2 gorge commission; creating new sections; providing a contingent
3 effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislative task force on the
6 Columbia river gorge commission is established consisting of the
7 following five members:

8 (a) Two members from the house of representatives appointed by
9 the speaker of the house of representatives. If possible, the members
10 must represent districts that are within or adjacent to the Columbia
11 river gorge national scenic area as identified in the Columbia river
12 gorge national scenic act, P.L. 99-663. If possible, the speaker of
13 the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each of
14 the two largest caucuses in the house of representatives.

15 (b) Two members from the senate appointed by the president of the
16 senate. If possible, the members must represent districts that are
17 within or adjacent to the Columbia river gorge national scenic area
18 as identified in the Columbia river gorge national scenic act, P.L.
19 99-663. If possible, the president of the senate shall appoint one
20 member from each of the two largest caucuses in the senate; and

21 (c) The governor or the governor's designee.

1 (2) The legislative task force shall meet and work with the
2 Columbia river gorge commission and a corresponding task force
3 authorized by the state of Oregon to address a range of topics
4 relating to the Columbia river gorge national scenic area act, P.L.
5 99-663, which may include, but is not be limited to:

6 (a) Funding of the commission by the states of Washington and
7 Oregon;

8 (b) The various effects of the Columbia river gorge national
9 scenic area act, P.L. 99-663 on the states of Washington and Oregon;
10 and

11 (c) Changes to the Columbia river gorge national scenic area act,
12 P.L. 99-663 and to the Columbia river gorge commission that could
13 enhance the relationship between the commission and states of
14 Washington and Oregon.

15 (3) A majority of the members of the legislative task force
16 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

17 (4) Official action by the legislative task force requires the
18 approval of a majority of members of the legislative task force.

19 (5) The legislative task force shall elect one of its members to
20 serve as chair of the task force.

21 (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority
22 shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

23 (7) The legislative task force shall meet at times and places
24 specified by the call of the chair or of a majority of the members of
25 the legislative task force.

26 (8) The legislative task force may adopt rules necessary for the
27 operation of the legislative task force.

28 (9) By September 15, 2016, the legislative task force shall
29 submit a report to the legislature consistent with RCW 43.01.036 and
30 may include recommendations for legislation.

31 (10) Legislative members of the legislative task force are
32 entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
33 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members of the task force, except those
34 representing an employer or organization, are entitled to
35 reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050
36 and 43.03.060.

37 (11) The expenses of the legislative task force must be paid
38 jointly by the senate and the house of representatives. Task force
39 expenditures are subject to approval by the senate facilities and

1 operations committee and the house of representatives executive rules
2 committee, or their successor committees.

3 (12) All departments in the executive, legislative, and judicial
4 branches of the state government must assist the legislative task
5 force in the performance of the legislative task force's duties and,
6 to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality and upon
7 request of a legislative task force member, furnish information and
8 advice that a member of the legislative task force considers
9 necessary to perform his or her duties.

10 (13) Staff support for the legislative task force shall be
11 provided by the house of representatives office of program research,
12 senate committee services, and the governor's office.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Section 1 of this act does not become
14 effective unless the state of Oregon, on or before July 11, 2015,
15 approves a corresponding five-member task force to work with the
16 Columbia river gorge commission and the legislative task force on the
17 Columbia river gorge commission in carrying out the duties of section
18 1 of this act.

19 (2) The governor must provide written notification to the chief
20 clerk of the house of representatives and the secretary of the senate
21 when the state of Oregon approves the corresponding task force.
22 Section 1 of this act becomes effective on the date that either the
23 chief clerk of the house of representatives or the secretary of the
24 senate receives the notice.

25 (3) Either the chief clerk of the house of representatives or the
26 secretary of the senate must provide written notification to the
27 office of the code reviser regarding the effective date of section 1
28 of this act.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire
30 December 30, 2016.

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