
HOUSE BILL 2276

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Eslick, Haler, and Young

Prefiled 12/13/17. Read first time 01/08/18. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to notification of wildlife transfer, relocation,
2 or introduction into a new location; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 77.12 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department must provide notice and hold a public hearing
8 prior to department personnel transferring, relocating, or
9 introducing any wildlife into a different location in the state.

10 (2)(a) The notice of the public hearing must be made at least
11 thirty days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice must state
12 the public hearing date, time, and location, and provide a brief
13 explanation of the department's proposed action. The brief
14 explanation must include the species of wildlife, the estimated
15 number of animals, the general location where the wildlife will be
16 released, and the potential range the wildlife is likely to roam.

17 (b) A press release of the notice of the public hearing must be
18 sent to media outlets providing news services to the communities that
19 are likely to be impacted by the wildlife's presence. The notice of
20 the public hearing must be posted on the department's web site, and
21 if possible, posted on a web site of the community or local

1 government near where the wildlife will be transferred, relocated, or
2 introduced; and be provided in writing to the town, city, or county
3 legislative members and the mayor or county executive of any location
4 that is likely to be impacted by the presence of the wildlife.

5 (3) The public hearing must be open to the public and held within
6 the community likely to be impacted by the presence of the
7 transferred, relocated, or introduced wildlife. A member of the
8 public may not be required to register his or her name or other
9 information as a condition to his or her attendance at the public
10 hearing. The presiding official or department personnel must present
11 an oral and visual presentation, to the extent practicable,
12 explaining the department's proposed actions and related management
13 of the wildlife in sufficient detail to provide a reasonable
14 understanding of the reasons for and potential impacts of the action
15 and presence of the wildlife in or near the community. The hearing
16 must be conducted by the presiding official to afford interested
17 persons the opportunity to present comment individually in the
18 presence and hearing of other attendees. Written or electronic
19 submissions may be accepted and included in the agency's hearing
20 record.

21 (4) The requirements of this section do not apply: To activities
22 occurring at existing hatcheries; for purposes of the relocation of
23 beavers; or for removal of an animal from urban or residential areas
24 to habitat areas that contain the same species of animal.

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