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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2771**

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**State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session**

**By** House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Maycumber, Taylor, Buys, and Shea)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/18.

1            AN ACT Relating to wolf management using translocation; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 77.36 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that the wolf  
5 conservation and management plan of 2011 identifies translocation of  
6 wolves as an important conservation tool and as a method to  
7 facilitate the state's ability to attain recovery goals. According to  
8 the wolf conservation and management plan, the translocation process  
9 includes review in accordance with either the state environmental  
10 policy act or national environmental policy act. The eastern  
11 Washington region has a multitude of thriving wolf packs and there is  
12 an urgent need for greater wolf management flexibility to provide  
13 relief to residents living in areas where those wolves are  
14 concentrated. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that the  
15 department use translocation to better manage the current packs.

16            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 77.36  
17 RCW to read as follows:

18            (1)(a)    The department is directed to use translocation  
19 immediately as a method to provide relief to residents living in  
20 areas where multiple packs of wolves range. The department must

1 initiate translocation of wolves to regions with fewer wolves. The  
2 department is to use best available science to determine which  
3 locations are unoccupied by wolves to become recipient sites.

4 (b) The department may not translocate wolves that are known to  
5 depredate livestock or have shown signs of being habituated to  
6 livestock or the presence of humans.

7 (2) When the department moves wolves to one of the other regions  
8 within the wolf conservation and management plan, the translocation  
9 process must be expedited by all state agencies involved in the  
10 process.

11 (3) By December 31, 2020, the department must provide a written  
12 report to the appropriate legislative committees regarding the  
13 progress made using translocation as part of the conservation and  
14 management of the state's population of wolves.

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