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SENATE BILL 6625

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senator Sheldon

1 AN ACT Relating to a study of the presence, impact, and removal  
2 of filamentous fungi from the capitol dome; creating new sections;  
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the capitol  
6 dome is an architectural wonder, inspiring legislators, staff, and  
7 visitors alike. Comprised of sandstone cleft from quarries near  
8 majestic Mount Rainier, the height of this fifth largest dome in the  
9 world, and tallest in North America, is, unfortunately, made slightly  
10 higher by a thin yet distinctly noticeable layer of fungi enveloping  
11 its entire surface. The legislature wishes to advance a modest  
12 proposal to study the adverse effects of the capitol dome's grey  
13 toupee on the psyche, health, and well-being of those who work within  
14 and visit the state's capitol, and formulate a sustainable plan for  
15 the control of fungus, lichen, and mold.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of enterprise services  
17 shall offer to every legislator a guided inspection of the top of the  
18 dome, from the vantage point of the cupola, so they can witness the  
19 damage being done to the "pate of state" by the encroaching fungi.

1 (2) The department of enterprise services shall study the effect  
2 of fungus, lichen, and mold on the capitol dome and develop a plan to  
3 eradicate it consistent with other regulations and approaches for  
4 fungus, lichen, and mold eradication in business structures. The  
5 department of enterprise services must report its findings and  
6 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
7 legislature by December 1, 2018. The study must include:

8 (a) A survey of visitors that shall be titled "You likin' the  
9 lichen?" and measure the alienation that viewing a capitol dome  
10 covered in fungus, lichen, and mold generates in the citizenry. The  
11 survey shall measure the responses on a range from "Inspires total  
12 confidence in the competency of the government to address problems  
13 large and small as well as in democratic ideals" to "Makes me  
14 physically ill." The survey should also measure whether the public  
15 perceives that the presence of fungus, lichen, and mold on the  
16 capitol sends a message that the "fungus lobby" has undue influence  
17 over their state government;

18 (b) An identification of the types of health risks that may be  
19 suffered due to the presence of fungus, lichen, and mold in the work  
20 environment under the capitol dome, and whether those have manifested  
21 in recent legislative sessions, including: Confusion, physical  
22 ailments, mental paralysis, an agitated mental state causing  
23 arguments over meaningless matters, declining mental acuity, and loss  
24 of a sense of humor;

25 (c) Identification of whether the presence of fungus, lichen, and  
26 mold on the capitol dome contributes to climate change, a required  
27 item in all legislative studies during the current legislative  
28 session;

29 (d) Identification of the individuals including, but not limited  
30 to, legislators, visitors, and staff who may have had health effects  
31 correlated with the cleanliness of the capitol dome and providing a  
32 summary analysis of the general malaise and causing factors;

33 (e) A physical inspection, by a trained medical specialist, of  
34 legislators, staff, and lobbyists who have served over fifteen years  
35 under the dome to see if they have signs of deterioration due to  
36 exposure to fungus, lichen, or mold, given their propensity to spread  
37 to artifices located in a structure that have been dormant;

38 (f) The development of a protocol to remove fungus, lichen, and  
39 mold consistent with the environmental protection agency guidelines  
40 for fungus, lichen, and mold remediation in schools and commercial

1 buildings, including, but not limited to, wrapping the entire dome in  
2 polyurethane sheeting, with a slit entry and covering flap,  
3 maintained under negative pressure with HEPA-filtered fan exhausted  
4 outside of the building, and supply-and-return vent blocked within  
5 the containment area; and

6 (g) Whether upon total fungus, lichen, and mold removal from the  
7 dome, the following Latin phrase should be inscribed in a prominent  
8 place on or near the dome or capitol campus: "Fungus nobis non sit"  
9 which translated is "Let there be no fungus among us."

10 (3) This section expires July 1, 2019.

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