
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1346

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Environment (originally sponsored by Representatives Blake, Takko, Sawyer, Appleton, and Buys)

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing additional hunting opportunities on
2 state land; amending RCW 79A.05.625, 79A.05.793, 79A.55.060, and
3 79A.05.165; and adding a new section to 79A.05 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 79A.05
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The commission shall conduct a pilot project exploring the
8 feasibility, limitations, and benefits of allowing hunting in state
9 parks. The pilot project must allow some level of hunting activity in
10 four state parks during the 2016, 2017, and 2018 calendar years.

11 (2)(a) The commission must develop the pilot project in
12 partnership with the department of fish and wildlife and conduct an
13 open, public process to identify the four state parks in which the
14 pilot project will occur.

15 (b) The department of fish and wildlife, with the commission's
16 agreement, is responsible for identifying the time, place, and manner
17 of hunting that occurs in the four state parks so that the hunting
18 activity is tailored to the unique qualities of the participating
19 parks and any potential effects of the pilot project on nonhunting
20 state park visitors is minimized.

1 (3) The state parks included in the pilot project must be evenly
2 divided among locations east and west of the crest of the Cascade
3 mountains. The commission must balance to the best of its ability,
4 but not necessarily satisfy for each park, the following factors when
5 identifying the state parks that will be included in the pilot
6 project:

7 (a) A location that is a suitable distance from dense residential
8 areas or is in a remote area;

9 (b) Proximity to other lands that experience higher than average
10 levels of wildlife-caused damage;

11 (c) Proximity to areas that are not managed by the commission and
12 that allow waterfowl and other hunting opportunities;

13 (d) The existence of large populations of game species in the
14 park that could potentially benefit from active wildlife management;
15 and

16 (e) A status as an undeveloped or lightly used park during any
17 proposed hunting seasons.

18 (4) All hunting that occurs as part of the pilot project must be
19 conducted with all relevant provisions of Title 77 RCW.

20 (5) The commission must ensure reasonably adequate signage and
21 public notice so that park visitors are aware of potential hunting
22 activity in a given park.

23 (6) During the pilot project, the commission must assure that no
24 hunting opportunities are provided only to a specified segment or
25 segments of the general public without providing the same hunting
26 opportunities to the general public.

27 (7) The commission shall coordinate with the department of fish
28 and wildlife and issue a report to the legislature, consistent with
29 RCW 43.01.036, at the culmination of the pilot project that:

30 (a) Summarizes the lessons learned from the pilot project;

31 (b) Makes suggestions as to whether or not the pilot project
32 demonstrated limited hunting as an appropriate recreational activity
33 at state parks;

34 (c) Provides information as to whether or not hunting in certain
35 state parks can reduce wildlife conflict within the park or on
36 adjacent private lands;

37 (d) Draws conclusions as to whether hunting is an effective
38 wildlife management tool for certain state parks; and

39 (e) Accounts for any increase in discover pass sales or hunting
40 license sales.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 79A.05.625 and 2000 c 11 s 49 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Nothing in RCW 79A.05.600 through (~~79A.05.630 and 79A.05.635~~
4 ~~through~~) 79A.05.695 shall be construed to interfere with the powers,
5 duties, and authority of the department of fish and wildlife to
6 regulate the conservation or taking of food fish and shellfish. Nor
7 shall anything in RCW 79A.05.600 through (~~79A.05.630 and 79A.05.635~~
8 ~~through~~) 79A.05.695 be construed to interfere with the powers,
9 duties, and authority of the department of fish and wildlife to
10 regulate, manage, conserve, and provide for the harvest of wildlife
11 within such area(~~:- PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That~~). However, no hunting
12 shall be permitted in any state park except where expressly
13 authorized by the commission.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 79A.05.793 and 2000 c 11 s 64 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 Nothing in RCW 79A.05.750 through 79A.05.795 shall be construed
17 to interfere with the powers, duties, and authority of the state
18 department of fish and wildlife or the state fish and wildlife
19 commission to regulate, manage, conserve, and provide for the harvest
20 of wildlife within such area(~~:- PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That~~). However,
21 no hunting shall be permitted in any state park except where
22 expressly authorized by the commission.

23 **Sec. 4.** RCW 79A.55.060 and 1999 c 249 s 805 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Nothing contained in this chapter shall affect the authority of
26 the department of fish and wildlife to construct facilities or make
27 improvements to facilitate the passage or propagation of fish nor
28 shall anything in this chapter be construed to interfere with the
29 powers, duties, and authority of the department of fish and wildlife
30 to regulate, manage, conserve, and provide for the harvest of fish or
31 wildlife within any area designated as being in the state's scenic
32 river system. No hunting shall be permitted in any state park except
33 where expressly authorized by the commission.

34 **Sec. 5.** RCW 79A.05.165 and 2007 c 441 s 2 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 (1) Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor who:

1 (a) Cuts, breaks, injures, destroys, takes, or removes any tree,
2 shrub, timber, plant, or natural object in any park or parkway except
3 in accordance with such rules as the commission may prescribe; or

4 (b) Kills, or pursues with intent to kill, any bird or animal in
5 any park or parkway except:

6 (i) In accordance with a research pass, permit, or other approval
7 issued by the commission, pursuant to rule, for scientific research
8 purposes; or

9 (ii) Where expressly authorized by the commission; or

10 (c) Takes any fish from the waters of any park or parkway, except
11 in conformity with such general rules as the commission may
12 prescribe; or

13 (d) Willfully mutilates, injures, defaces, or destroys any
14 guidepost, notice, tablet, fence, inclosure, or work for the
15 protection or ornamentation of any park or parkway; or

16 (e) Lights any fire upon any park or parkway, except in such
17 places as the commission has authorized, or willfully or carelessly
18 permits any fire which he or she has lighted or which is under his or
19 her charge, to spread or extend to or burn any of the shrubbery,
20 trees, timber, ornaments, or improvements upon any park or parkway,
21 or leaves any campfire which he or she has lighted or which has been
22 left in his or her charge, unattended by a competent person, without
23 extinguishing it; or

24 (f) Places within any park or parkway or affixes to any object
25 therein contained, without a written license from the commission, any
26 word, character, or device designed to advertise any business,
27 profession, article, thing, exhibition, matter, or event.

28 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a person who
29 violates any rule adopted, promulgated, or issued by the commission
30 pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a
31 misdemeanor.

32 (b) The commission may specify by rule, when not inconsistent
33 with applicable statutes, that violation of the rule is an infraction
34 under chapter 7.84 RCW.

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