
HOUSE BILL 1871

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Takko, Fitzgibbon, and Zeiger

Read first time 02/07/11. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to implementing recommendations developed in
2 accordance with Substitute Senate Bill No. 5248, chapter 353, Laws of
3 2007; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature intends to establish the
6 agriculture and critical areas voluntary stewardship program as
7 recommended in the report submitted by the William D. Ruckelshaus
8 Center to the legislature as required by chapter 353, Laws of 2007, and
9 chapter 203, Laws of 2010.

10 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to:

11 (a) Provide county legislative authorities with a new option for
12 protecting critical areas that is an alternative to requirements of the
13 growth management act. The legislature finds that this alternative, in
14 addition to further harmonizing requirements of the growth management
15 act to protect critical areas and preserve agricultural lands, will
16 further the goal of fostering improved cooperation between diverse
17 interests, will enhance critical areas located within regions of the
18 state that engage in agricultural activities, and will maintain and
19 improve the long-term viability of agriculture in local communities;

1 (b) Include in the stewardship program, locally tailored programs
2 with recommended practices and incentives that are available on a
3 watershed level. The legislature intends for these locally tailored
4 programs, to the maximum extent practicable, to address nonpoint water
5 quality issues related to agricultural activities; and

6 (c) Make the stewardship program available to enhance critical
7 areas in participating counties, including areas within these counties
8 that are subject to the jurisdiction of the shoreline management act.
9 Should the stewardship program be applied in areas that are subject to
10 the jurisdiction of the shoreline management act, the legislature
11 intends for its application to be consistent with the shoreline
12 management act.

13 (3) The legislature does not intend for the stewardship program to
14 affect actions taken to comply with the requirements of chapter 36.70A
15 RCW by counties that are not participating in the program.

16 (4) The legislature intends for the stewardship program to be
17 guided by the following principles:

18 (a) Building upon existing work in local watersheds;

19 (b) Emphasizing voluntary stewardship before regulatory actions;

20 (c) Protecting critical areas from further degradation;

21 (d) Setting priorities for voluntary actions to enhance critical
22 areas;

23 (e) Improving compliance with applicable laws pertaining to the
24 protection of water quality and fish habitat; and

25 (f) Fostering a spirit of cooperation among diverse interest groups
26 to better assure program success.

27 (5) The legislature further intends that, in designing and
28 administering the stewardship program, the state conservation
29 commission shall use existing state and federal programs, to the
30 maximum extent practicable, in its efforts to achieve the goals of the
31 program.

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