
HOUSE BILL 2310

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives McEntire, Chambers, Barnard, Jacobsen, Schmidt, Chandler, Leavitt, Simmons, Nance, Orwall, Eslick, and McClintock

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Julia Butler Hansen state park
2 heritage center; and adding a new chapter to Title 79A RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) The historic home of state representative and later
6 Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen in Cathlamet is the oldest
7 surviving pioneer structure in Wahkiakum county, is a unique
8 repository of state, federal, and local history and artifacts, and
9 contains unique furnishings, original art, and pioneer artifacts;

10 (b) The home and grounds are unparalleled in significance to the
11 pioneer history of early Washington state and contain artifacts and
12 heirlooms of regional and national significance, including those
13 drawn from the distinguished career of Congresswoman Hansen.
14 Congresswoman Hansen was the first woman in history to chair a
15 congressional appropriations subcommittee and was a close protégé of
16 presidents, including Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B.
17 Johnson. Congresswoman Hansen was an influential transportation
18 leader, a catalyst behind some of the most significant infrastructure
19 in the Pacific Northwest, including the Astoria-Megler bridge.
20 Congresswoman Hansen rose from the Cathlamet town council to embark
21 on a 21-year career in the Washington state legislature followed by a

1 14-year career in the United States congress, and among other things,
2 also served on the Washington state highways commission and its
3 successors;

4 (c) The current Hansen family owner is willing to donate
5 Congresswoman Hansen's former home and grounds to the state, along
6 with substantial portions of the historic inventory, for public
7 ownership and benefit so long as the home can be adequately cared for
8 and open to the public as a state historic site. The adjacent
9 historical Johnson property can be donated to the state by Wahkiakum
10 county for a visitor center and administrative facility;

11 (d) The Hansen home has been listed on the Washington state
12 historic register for many years with a pending listing on the
13 national register of historic places;

14 (e) The Washington state parks and recreation commission is
15 uniquely qualified to establish and operate Julia Butler Hansen state
16 park heritage center as the commission already successfully operates
17 state heritage sites such as Steptoe Battlefield state park heritage
18 site, Fort Columbia state park, Olmstead Place historical state park,
19 Peace Arch historical state park, Fort Simcoe historical state park,
20 Fort Casey historical state park, and similar sites;

21 (f) Wahkiakum county is underserved regarding state parks and
22 related investments; and

23 (g) Establishing and maintaining the Julia Butler Hansen state
24 park heritage center embodies the public policy articulated by the
25 legislature in RCW 27.34.200. It would be an excellent example of
26 promoting, enhancing, and perpetuating buildings, sites, and
27 artifacts of historic, archaeological, architectural, and cultural
28 significance for the benefit of the people of the state for many
29 generations. It would also provide economic, cultural, and aesthetic
30 benefits to Cathlamet, Wahkiakum county, and the state.

31 (2) For the reasons described in subsection (1) of this section,
32 and to honor and remember the contributions of state representative
33 and Congresswoman Hansen to Washington state and this nation, the
34 legislature intends for the state to accept the donation of her
35 former home, contents, and grounds along with the adjacent historical
36 property to establish and maintain the Julia Butler Hansen state park
37 heritage center.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature,
39 with the cooperation of the Hansen family and Wahkiakum county, to

1 create and manage the Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage center
2 to conserve the historic home, contents, and grounds of Julia Butler
3 Hansen and establish a visitor center that will enable the home to be
4 open to the public and to economically and culturally benefit
5 Cathlamet, Wahkiakum county, and the state. The Julia Butler Hansen
6 state park heritage center would honor the public service the former
7 state representative and congresswoman provided to her community, the
8 state, and the nation, as well as preserve and share the unique
9 history, heritage, and culture of the home, contents, and grounds.

10 (2) Upon completion of the two conveyances of real property
11 described in this subsection (2), the commission must establish and
12 manage the Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage center
13 conservation site in Cathlamet, Washington. The properties to be
14 donated and conveyed to the state to establish the Julia Butler
15 Hansen state park heritage center consist of the house and grounds of
16 the Julia Butler Hansen heritage center at 35 Butler Street and the
17 adjacent grounds of the historic JL Johnson house at 80 Division
18 Street. The commission is authorized and directed to receive and
19 acquire the property described in this subsection (2) and any related
20 easements or rights.

21 (3) The commission must develop a management plan in consultation
22 with the state historical society and department of archaeology and
23 historic preservation for the Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage
24 center.

25 (4) (a) As provided for in RCW 79A.05.055, the commission may make
26 provisions for the publication and sale of interpretive and
27 historical materials and literature with respect to the life and
28 accomplishments of Julia Butler Hansen, the history of the Hansen
29 family home, and the history of Wahkiakum county. Proceeds from such
30 sales must be directed to the parks improvement account to benefit
31 the Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage center.

32 (b) It is the intent of the legislature that the Julia Butler
33 Hansen home be preserved, as much as possible, in the condition and
34 with such furnishings as existed during Julia Butler Hansen's
35 lifetime.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a
37 new chapter in Title 79A RCW.

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