
SENATE BILL 6132

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Carrell, Ericksen, Stevens, Chase, Sheldon, Holmquist Newbry, Delvin, Becker, Schoesler, Swecker, Honeyford, Conway, and Roach

Read first time 01/12/12. Referred to Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to small-scale ocean beach prospecting and mining;
2 adding a new section to chapter 77.55 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The completion of a two-year pilot program
5 mandated by chapter 83, Laws of 2008 determined that small-scale ocean
6 beach prospecting and mining poses no identifiable threat to fish,
7 their habitats, or conflicts with other beach users. As a result, the
8 Washington state parks and recreation commission adopted new rules for
9 beach prospecting that became effective October 2011. The rules allow
10 for prospecting and mining year-round with limited types of small
11 hand-operated and motorized equipment on certain ocean beaches within
12 the seashore conservation area without a permit.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.55 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 All ocean beach prospecting and mining activity is exempt from the
16 requirements of this chapter provided the activity complies with the

1 provisions of WAC 352-37-340 as existing on the effective date of this
2 section.

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