

---

SENATE BILL 6246

---

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators McCoy, Sheldon, Fraser, Angel, Rolfes, Ranker, Darneille,  
and Bailey

1 AN ACT Relating to designating Washington's shoreline as a state  
2 maritime heritage area; and adding a new chapter to Title 27 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the Washington  
5 saltwater coast should be recognized as a unique and integral part of  
6 our state and national heritage. This coastal landscape has supported  
7 the development of a rich and diverse maritime heritage, including the  
8 canoe cultures of the original native American inhabitants, the spirit  
9 of exploration, and the growth of marine industries. The water touches  
10 all aspects of daily life on the coast involving transportation, jobs,  
11 recreation, and community activities. The purpose of designating the  
12 Washington coast as a state maritime heritage area is to preserve and  
13 share our cultural resources, to promote tourism and local economic  
14 development, and to encourage congress to recognize the Washington  
15 coast as a national maritime heritage area.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The state of Washington's saltwater  
17 coast is designated as the state maritime heritage area. The  
18 designated area includes all federal, state, local, and tribal lands

1 that allow public access and are partly located within one-quarter mile  
2 landward of the saltwater shoreline, within the following counties:  
3 Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce,  
4 San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom. The Lake  
5 Washington ship canal and the Lake Union shoreline are included in the  
6 designated area.

7 (2) The designation of the state maritime heritage area is intended  
8 to facilitate partnerships among federal, state, local, and tribal  
9 governments, businesses, heritage organizations, individuals, and other  
10 entities to:

11 (a) Honor the cultural resources of the maritime heritage area;

12 (b) Increase public awareness and appreciation for the natural,  
13 historic, scenic, recreational, and cultural resources of the maritime  
14 heritage area;

15 (c) Promote tourism and economic development within the state and  
16 local jurisdictions; and

17 (d) Encourage congress to designate the Washington saltwater coast  
18 as a national maritime heritage area.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The maritime heritage area designation may  
20 only be used for the purposes of heritage and tourism promotion,  
21 consistent with section 2 of this act. Nothing in this chapter:

22 (1) Creates any regulatory jurisdiction or grants any regulatory  
23 authority to any government or other entity;

24 (2) Abridges the rights of any owner of public or private property  
25 within the designated area; or

26 (3) Establishes any legal rights or obligations, including in  
27 regards to any environmental or administrative review process involving  
28 land use.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute  
30 a new chapter in Title 27 RCW.

--- END ---