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SENATE BILL 6646

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Litzow, Carlyle, and Hill

1 AN ACT Relating to recognizing art and cultural resources as  
2 components of state environmental policy; and amending RCW  
3 43.21C.020.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.21C.020 and 2009 c 549 s 5096 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature, recognizing that a human being depends on  
8 biological and physical surroundings for food, shelter, and other  
9 needs, and for cultural enrichment as well; and recognizing that art  
10 and cultural resources such as music, dance, and theater are an  
11 integral part of a healthful environment; and recognizing further the  
12 profound impact of a human being's activity on the interrelations of  
13 all components of the natural environment, particularly the profound  
14 influences of population growth, high-density urbanization,  
15 industrial expansion, resource utilization and exploitation, and new  
16 and expanding technological advances and recognizing further the  
17 critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental  
18 quality to the overall welfare and development of human beings,  
19 declares that it is the continuing policy of the state of Washington,  
20 in cooperation with federal and local governments, and other  
21 concerned public and private organizations, to use all practicable

1 means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in  
2 a manner calculated to: (a) Foster and promote the general welfare;  
3 (b) create and maintain conditions under which human beings and  
4 nature can exist in productive harmony; and (c) fulfill the social,  
5 economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of  
6 Washington citizens.

7 (2) In order to carry out the policy set forth in this chapter,  
8 it is the continuing responsibility of the state of Washington and  
9 all agencies of the state to use all practicable means, consistent  
10 with other essential considerations of state policy, to improve and  
11 coordinate plans, functions, programs, and resources to the end that  
12 the state and its citizens may:

13 (a) Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of  
14 the environment for succeeding generations;

15 (b) Assure for all people of Washington safe, healthful,  
16 productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;

17 (c) Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment  
18 without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable  
19 and unintended consequences;

20 (d) Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of  
21 our national heritage, including cultural resources;

22 (e) Maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports  
23 diversity and variety of individual choice;

24 (f) Achieve a balance between population and resource use which  
25 will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's  
26 amenities; and

27 (g) Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the  
28 maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

29 (3) The legislature recognizes that each person has a fundamental  
30 and inalienable right to a healthful environment and that each person  
31 has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and  
32 enhancement of the environment.

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