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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6603**

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**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation  
(originally sponsored by Senators Doumit, Morton and Parlette)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/06.

1            AN ACT Relating to wildfire prevention and protection; creating new  
2 sections; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The wildfire prevention and protection work  
5 group is established.    The work group consists of the following  
6 members:

7            (1) Two members representing counties that contain significant  
8 forest land, grazing land, or both, at least one each from eastern and  
9 western Washington, selected by the Washington state association of  
10 counties;

11            (2) A member representing a city that contains significant forest  
12 land, grazing land, or both, selected by the association of Washington  
13 cities;

14            (3) Three members representing fire districts that contain  
15 significant forest land, grazing land, or both, at least one each from  
16 eastern and western Washington, selected by the state fire  
17 commissioners association;

18            (4) Two members representing environmental protection

- 1 organizations, selected by the executive director of the Washington  
2 state conservation commission;
- 3 (5) A member representing industrial forest landowners, selected by  
4 the Washington forest protection association;
- 5 (6) A member representing small forest landowners, selected by the  
6 Washington farm forestry association;
- 7 (7) A member representing the building industry, selected by the  
8 building industry association of Washington;
- 9 (8) A member representing realtors, selected by the Washington  
10 association of realtors;
- 11 (9) One representative of agriculture selected by the Washington  
12 farm bureau;
- 13 (10) One contract logger selected by the contract loggers  
14 association;
- 15 (11) One person selected by the Washington cattlemens association;
- 16 (12) One person from the Washington state patrol's fire protection  
17 program;
- 18 (13) Two forest landowners with large forest lands, one from east  
19 of the crest of the Cascade mountains and one from west of the crest of  
20 the Cascade mountains;
- 21 (14) The insurance commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;
- 22 (15) A member representing the Washington state building code  
23 council, selected by the chair of the council; and
- 24 (16) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's  
25 designee.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The wildfire prevention and protection  
27 work group shall review existing fire studies conducted by or for the  
28 department of natural resources, the joint legislative audit and review  
29 committee, and other organizations. The work group shall review the  
30 following issues:

31 (a) Whether the forest fire protection assessment rate provides  
32 sufficient funding towards the protection of public and private lands  
33 from wildfires;

34 (b) Whether the statutory limitations on the purposes for which  
35 moneys collected through the forest fire protection assessment and from  
36 the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account may be  
37 expended are warranted;

1 (c) Whether the term "forest land," as set forth in RCW 76.04.005,  
2 properly defines the scope of land on which the forest fire protection  
3 assessment should be assessed;

4 (d) Whether forest fire protection assessments are currently being  
5 collected from all lands on which the department of natural resources  
6 has the duty to impose such assessments;

7 (e) Whether the adoption of elements from wildfire programs of  
8 other western states would improve wildfire protection and suppression  
9 in Washington state;

10 (f) Whether the department of natural resources' authority to  
11 protect forest land should include the authority to protect structures;

12 (g) Whether improvements and efficiencies in the department of  
13 natural resources' fire protection activities would impact fire  
14 suppression activities and expenses;

15 (h) Whether state and local building codes adequately address the  
16 dangers posed by development in areas subject to wildfires;

17 (i) Whether local government land use regulations, and state  
18 advisory and assistance programs, adequately address the dangers posed  
19 by development in areas subject to wildfires; and

20 (j) Whether insurance rates in Washington state reflect the dangers  
21 posed by development in areas subject to wildfires.

22 (2) Members of the forest fire prevention and protection work group  
23 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and  
24 43.03.060.

25 (3) The work group must be staffed by senate committee services and  
26 the office of program research.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The wildfire prevention and protection work  
28 group shall report its findings and recommendations in the form of  
29 draft legislation to the legislature by December 1, 2006.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, or  
31 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
32 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the senate for the  
33 travel expenses of the wildfire prevention and protection work group.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    This act expires July 1, 2007.

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