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HOUSE BILL 2549

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Taylor, Fitzgibbon, and McCune

Read first time 01/17/12. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to state bounties for invasive species; amending  
2 RCW 77.15.425; and adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.15.425 and 2009 c 333 s 18 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The fish and wildlife enforcement reward account is created in  
7 the custody of the state treasurer. Deposits to the account include:  
8 Receipts from fish and shellfish overages as a result of a department  
9 enforcement action; fees for hunter education deferral applications;  
10 fees for master hunter applications and master hunter certification  
11 renewals; all receipts from criminal wildlife penalty assessments under  
12 RCW 77.15.400 and 77.15.420; all receipts of court-ordered restitution  
13 or donations associated with any fish, shellfish, or wildlife  
14 enforcement action; and proceeds from forfeitures and evidence pursuant  
15 to RCW 77.15.070 and 77.15.100. The department may accept money or  
16 personal property from persons under conditions requiring the property  
17 or money to be used consistent with the intent of expenditures from the  
18 fish and wildlife enforcement reward account.

1       (2) Expenditures from the account may be used only for  
2 investigation and prosecution of fish and wildlife offenses, to provide  
3 rewards to persons informing the department about violations of this  
4 title and rules adopted under this title, to offset department-approved  
5 costs incurred to administer the hunter education deferral program and  
6 the master hunter (~~(permit)~~) permit program, for the payment of  
7 invasive species bounties under section 2 of this act, and for other  
8 valid enforcement uses as determined by the commission. Only the  
9 director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the  
10 account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter  
11 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

12       NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14       (1) The department must establish a program to assist with the  
15 eradication of invasive species by paying cash bounties to citizens in  
16 exchange for their participation in eradication efforts.

17       (2) The framework of the bounty program must be established by the  
18 department by rule. The rules must include how the department will  
19 identify species eligible for a bounty, how a participant must confirm  
20 their successful eradication assistance efforts, and how much of a  
21 bounty will be paid for each included species.

22       (3) All bounties must be paid from the fish and wildlife  
23 enforcement reward account created in RCW 77.15.425.

24       (4) The department may determine which invasive species are  
25 eligible for inclusion in the bounty program. This list of included  
26 species may include any of the following:

- 27       (a) Invasive species;
- 28       (b) Aquatic invasive species;
- 29       (c) Prohibited aquatic animal species;
- 30       (d) Regulated aquatic animal species;
- 31       (e) Nonnative avian species of the family Strigidae that are  
32 displacing native avian species; and
- 33       (f) Mammalian predators of a species that has been eradicated in  
34 Washington in its native form if that species is reemerging into  
35 Washington through the migration of individual animals from a nonnative

1 gene pool.

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