

2026 Legislative Session Agency Request Proposals

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Agency Request Proposals

1. Increase agency efficiency by reducing the frequency and number of required reports
2. Fish and Wildlife Financial Transparency Act
3. Improving diver safety in the geoduck fishery
4. Protecting staff from harassment by the public while they are performing their duties.

Increase agency efficiency by reducing the frequency and number of required reports

Effect

The Legislature can mandate state agencies to submit reports on various topics of interest. They are often initially mandated to summarize the impact(s) of new programs or initiatives.

This proposal would reduce the number of recurring reports required in our statute. It's often true that the functions of the reports are not relevant today and yet remain in statute.

Justification

WDFW has 9 reports that must be submitted on a biennial or annual basis, as required in RCW. This does not include onetime reports that are required by new legislation or through budget provisos.

In 2024, WDFW submitted more than 20 reports to the Legislature. These reports require a significant amount of staff time and coordination and includes information that can be provided in other ways without needing a formal report.

Fish and Wildlife Financial Transparency Act

Effect

This bill is designed to enhance transparency and ensure that every dollar is clearly allocated and readily available for the Department's core mission of conserving our state's fish and wildlife.

In 2021, the Department restructured the State Wildlife Account by dividing Fund 104 into two separate entities: Fund 24N: Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Account, and Fund 104: Limited Fish and Wildlife Account, to clarify the funds available to WDFW.

This bill proposes the next logical step: further subdividing Fund 104 into individual, dedicated accounts, each possessing its own expenditure authority and available balance

Justification

This legislation directly addresses four primary objectives:

1. To simplify the presentation and communication of WDFW's budget.
2. To eliminate current obstacles in WDFW fund management, particularly as we transition to Workday under the One Washington initiative.
3. Create a revolving account to collect "surcharge" revenue related to Section 18 of SB-5583, the ability for WDFW to collect revenue to cover costs.
4. To amend RCW, thereby creating a more agile and stakeholder-responsive budget framework for WDFW.

Statute Changes – Fish and Wildlife Financial Transparency Act

RCW 77 – all references to “Limited Fish and Wildlife Account”

The development of final proposed statutory language would include engagement with stakeholders on reduce restrictions, consolidate subaccounts and establish “non-appropriated accounts”.

Improving diver safety in the geoduck fishery

Effect

This bill will add flexibility to RCW 77.60.070 to allow geoduck fishery monitoring staff to position harvest vessels in water depths that promote safe harvest opportunity while still maintaining existing noise and environmental protections.

Justification

This bill addresses a need identified in the December 2024 report to legislature by the [Geoduck Task Force](#). The current language in RCW 77.60.070 prevents state commercial harvest vessels from anchoring within 200 yards offshore.

This excludes state harvest from many tracts or restricts harvest to the deepest portion of tracts which increases diver risk of decompression sickness or drowning.

Protecting staff from harassment by the public while they are performing their duties.

Effect

This bill seeks to protect WDFW staff from harassment while staff are performing their duties.

This bill would expand 77.15.360 by adding the creation of an extreme hostile work environment from members of the public.

This would be considered a first step, a future bill could be introduced to expand the ability to suspend or revoke a license in RCW 77.15.700 and 77.15.710

Justification

WDFW employees have been subjected to sexual harassment, threats, and inappropriate touching by members of the public without recourse or a process to protect themselves.

Currently, staff are protected under, RCW 43.01.135. This includes harassment that occurs within the agency or by a contracted employee, not from members of the public.

The WDFW safety system includes over 40 reports of negative verbal or physical interactions between agency staff and the public since March of 2024.