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Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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July 18, 2024

Item E-5: Agency Request Legislation for the 2025 Session – Requested Action

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This item requests the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission approval of policy options and delegation of authority to the Director’s Office and the Legislative Committee to finalize agency request legislation and to submit the proposals to the Governor’s Office in September. This item advances the Commission’s goal in the strategic plan: “Obtain and effectively manage resources needed to create and sustain an exceptional parks system”.

SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Prior to each legislative session, state agencies have an opportunity to propose statutory changes for consideration by the Governor’s Office and the legislature. These proposals, known as “agency request legislation”, are bills that are evaluated and approved by the Governor’s Office and like all proposed legislation, are required to be sponsored by a member of the legislature. State Parks’ agency request legislation will denote that request legislation is: “By request of the State Parks and Recreation Commission”.

For these proposals to be considered for support by the Executive Branch, the Governor’s Office requires a description of the problem or issue the proposed legislation seeks to address as well as information on positions of stakeholders and state agencies that would be affected by the proposal. If the proposal has a fiscal impact all affected agencies must submit fiscal notes on the proposal.

After state agencies submit their proposals in September, the Governor’s Office works with the requesting agency to evaluate requests and determine whether the proposed policies will be supported by the Governor’s Office for consideration by the legislature during the 2025 legislative session.

Staff recommends reintroducing the following two statutory changes that were introduced by the Commission during the 2024 legislative session. The following options have been approved by the Executive Management Team and the Legislative Committee for this :

- 1) Resubmit policy in SSB 5902- Reinvesting account revenue. This bill passed the Senate unanimously during the 2024 session but did not advance in the House of Representatives. This legislation allows the Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account, the Parkland Acquisition Account, the Winter Recreation Program Account, and the Snowmobile Account to retain their proportionate share of interest earnings in the State Treasury. Additionally, this legislation makes the Parkland Acquisition Account non-appropriated.

- 2) Resubmit policy in HB 2445- Leasing authority of the State Parks and Recreation Commission that advanced to the House Rules Committee during the 2024 Legislative Session. This statutory change was approved by the Commission last July. The bill eliminates statutory language that limits the Lodge at St. Edward State Park to a 62-year lease. The legislation would allow the Lodge to renegotiate the long-term lease at the park for up to 80 years with approval and conditions set by the Commission. This bill received a public hearing last session and was moved out of the House Committee on Innovation, Community & Economic Development but was not brought to the House Floor for a vote.

Bill drafts, fiscal notes, and stakeholder positions are due to the Governor's Office on September 13. Based on this timeline, and the potential need to make policy changes that align with the Governor's priorities, staff requests delegation to the Director's Office and the Legislative Committee to develop and refine potential policy proposals with the Governor's Office and stakeholders prior to the 2025 Legislative Session.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: RCW 79A.05.030(1)

REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Delegate to the Director the authority to pursue the development of 2025 agency to reintroduce request legislation that did not pass during the 2024 short legislative session.
2. Authorize the Director and designees to work with the Legislative Committee, the Governor's policy and fiscal staff, and relevant stakeholders, to develop legislative requests and submit them to the Governor's Office for formal review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

None

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Reviewer(s):

Hannah Ross, SEPA REVIEW: Pursuant to WAC197-11-704, staff has determined that this Commission agenda item is not subject to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review.

Van Church, Fiscal Review: No fiscal impacts at this time. Future fiscal impacts may occur and will be reflected in an operating budget request or analyzed as a part of a future Commission action item.

Andy Woo, Assistant Attorney General: Reviewed as of June 27, 2024

Approved for Transmittal to Commission



Diana Dupuis, Director