
HOUSE BILL 2045

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Waters and Chapman

Prefiled 12/26/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of an adopt a fish barrier
2 program; amending RCW 47.40.105; adding a new section to chapter
3 77.95 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that fish barriers
6 are a serious impediment to salmon and steelhead recovery. The
7 legislature further finds that the state has limited financial
8 resources to address its many challenges and that community members
9 and businesses may want to offer their help in partnership with the
10 state for the removal of fish barriers that are on lands owned by
11 local governments. The legislature also finds that it is desirable to
12 coordinate any such private donations with existing fish barrier
13 removal projects on lands owned by local governments.

14 Therefore, the legislature intends to facilitate the removal of
15 fish barriers on lands owned by local governments by creating the
16 adopt a fish barrier program through which local governments may
17 receive such donations and to acknowledge project donors through
18 appropriate public signage.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.95
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Every county, city, and town may accept any money or property
2 donated, devised, or bequeathed to it that is donated for the purpose
3 of fish barrier removal. Local governments may determine the value of
4 any property donated, devised, or bequeathed for the purpose of
5 recognizing fish barrier removal donations in this section.

6 (2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, and upon
7 completion of the related project, counties, cities, and towns
8 receiving donations for removing a fish barrier must install a
9 clearly marked sign that acknowledges the individual donors and that
10 is consistent with the requirements of RCW 47.40.105.

11 (3) Signs installed under subsection (2) of this section must be
12 of a uniform design approved by the recreation and conservation
13 office and may only include the words "adopt a fish barrier," the
14 names of project donors, and the species of fish affected by the
15 project. The donor's name may not be displayed more predominantly
16 than the remainder of the sign message. Trademarks or business logos
17 may be displayed. To the extent that local governments determine that
18 the number of donors for individual projects would interfere with the
19 signage requirements of subsection (2) of this section or the
20 requirements of RCW 47.40.105, local governments may determine the
21 number of donors listed on signs but must endeavor to recognize the
22 donors that provide the largest donations. Local governments
23 receiving private donations under this section must only install
24 signage pursuant to this section for individual donations that are
25 equal in value to at least \$10,000.

26 (4) To the extent feasible and with the goal of expediting fish
27 barrier removals, counties, cities, and towns receiving donations
28 under this section must coordinate donations with any grant
29 applications made for state grant funding for fish barrier removal
30 pursuant to RCW 77.95.170. The recreation and conservation office
31 must publish and maintain a list of fish barrier removal projects
32 that are suited to receiving private donations pursuant to this
33 section.

34 (5) Upon completion of a project funded with private donations
35 pursuant to this section, the local government that owns the
36 completed project must notify the recreation and conservation office.
37 Upon receiving such a notification, the recreation and conservation
38 office must gather information regarding the project sponsors,
39 location, fish species affected, and the amounts of individual
40 donations that supported the project. The recreation and conservation

1 office must publish and maintain this information with the project
2 list under subsection (4) of this section.

3 (6) For each individual donation equal to at least \$100,000 in
4 value pursuant to this section, the recreation and conservation
5 office must provide to the donor a recognition plaque that meets the
6 following criteria: (a) The plaque must be signed by the governor;
7 and (b) the plaque must include the name of the donor, the words
8 "adopt a fish barrier program," the location and name of the project
9 funded, the amount and year of the donation, and the fish species
10 affected.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.40.105 and 1990 c 258 s 3 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Local government legislative authorities may enact local "adopt-
14 a-highway sign" and "adopt a fish barrier" programs which are not
15 inconsistent with state or federal law.

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