

2919

Sponsor(s): Representatives Jacobsen and Regala

Brief Description: Protecting streamside buffers and habitat.

**HB 2919 - DIGEST**

Finds that: (1) Streamside buffers are essential for the protection and restoration of salmonid and shellfish habitat, fisheries resources, and water quality;

(2) in their natural state, streamside buffers provide many valuable social and ecological services, including: Controlling erosion, flooding, and storm water runoff, protecting water resources by filtering pollutants, providing for ground water recharge, and providing for habitat for many species of fish, shellfish, and wildlife; and

(3) buffers surrounding all waters of the state are essential to protect and restore the productive capacity of salmonid and shellfish habitat and survival of the fisheries resources.

Provides that every person who violates a provision of this act or rules adopted under it is subject to a penalty in an amount of not more than ten thousand dollars for every violation. Each and every violation is a separate and distinct offense.

Directs the department to assist those landowners who will voluntarily restore and enhance streamside functions.