
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5105

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Deccio, McCaslin, Hale, Goings, Johnson, Haugen, West, Winsley, Oke, Schow and Roach)

Read first time 02/24/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to administrative rule making; and amending RCW
2 34.05.328.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 34.05.328 and 1995 c 403 s 201 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Before adopting a rule described in subsection (~~(5)~~) (6) of
7 this section, an agency shall:

8 (a) Clearly state in detail the general goals and specific
9 objectives of the statute that the rule implements;

10 (b) Determine that the rule is needed to achieve the general goals
11 and specific objectives stated under (a) of this subsection, and
12 analyze alternatives to rule making and the consequences of not
13 adopting the rule;

14 (c) Determine that the probable benefits of the rule are greater
15 than its probable costs, taking into account both the qualitative and
16 quantitative benefits and costs and the specific directives of the
17 statute being implemented;

18 (d) Determine, after considering alternative versions of the rule
19 and the analysis required under (b) and (c) of this subsection, that

1 the rule being adopted is the least burdensome alternative for those
2 required to comply with it that will achieve the general goals and
3 specific objectives stated under (a) of this subsection;

4 (e) Determine that the rule does not require those to whom it
5 applies to take an action that violates requirements of another federal
6 or state law;

7 (f) Determine that the rule does not impose more stringent
8 performance requirements on private entities than on public entities
9 unless required to do so by federal or state law;

10 (g) Determine if the rule differs from any federal regulation or
11 statute applicable to the same activity or subject matter and, if so,
12 determine that the difference is justified by ~~((the following:~~

13 ~~(i))) a state statute that explicitly allows the agency to differ
14 from federal standards; ~~((or~~~~

15 ~~(ii) Substantial evidence that the difference is necessary to
16 achieve the general goals and specific objectives stated under (a) of
17 this subsection;)) and~~

18 (h) Coordinate the rule, to the maximum extent practicable, with
19 other federal, state, and local laws applicable to the same activity or
20 subject matter.

21 (2) In making its determinations pursuant to subsection (1)(b)
22 through (g) of this section, the agency shall place in the rule-making
23 file documentation of sufficient quantity and quality so as to persuade
24 a reasonable person that the determinations are justified. Only those
25 rules that are determined to meet in the affirmative all requirements
26 of subsection (1) of this section may be adopted.

27 (3) Before adopting rules described in subsection ~~((5))~~ (6) of
28 this section, an agency shall place in the rule-making file a rule
29 implementation plan for rules filed under each adopting order. The
30 plan shall describe how the agency intends to:

31 (a) Implement and enforce the rule, including a description of the
32 resources the agency intends to use;

33 (b) Inform and educate affected persons about the rule;

34 (c) Promote and assist voluntary compliance; and

35 (d) Evaluate whether the rule achieves the purpose for which it was
36 adopted, including, to the maximum extent practicable, the use of
37 interim milestones to assess progress and the use of objectively
38 measurable outcomes.

1 (4) (~~(After adopting a)~~) For rules described in subsection (~~(+5)~~)
2 (6) of this section regulating the same activity or subject matter as
3 another provision of federal or state law, an agency shall do all of
4 the following:

5 (a) Provide to the business assistance center a list citing by
6 reference the other federal and state laws that regulate the same
7 activity or subject matter;

8 (b) Coordinate implementation and enforcement of the rule with the
9 other federal and state entities regulating the same activity or
10 subject matter by making every effort to do one or more of the
11 following:

12 (i) Deferring to the other entity;

13 (ii) Designating a lead agency; or

14 (iii) Entering into an agreement with the other entities specifying
15 how the agency and entities will coordinate implementation and
16 enforcement.

17 If the agency is unable to comply with this subsection (4)(b) by
18 July 1, 1998, the agency shall report to the legislature pursuant to
19 (c) of this subsection;

20 (c) Report to the joint administrative rules review committee:

21 (i) The existence of any overlap or duplication of other federal or
22 state laws, any differences from federal law, and any known overlap,
23 duplication, or conflict with local laws; and

24 (ii) Make recommendations for any legislation that may be necessary
25 to eliminate or mitigate any adverse effects of such overlap,
26 duplication, or difference.

27 (5) By July 1, 1999, any rule that remains without specific
28 statutory authority to overlap or duplicate other federal or state laws
29 or to differ from federal law expires.

30 (6)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, this section
31 applies to:

32 (i) Significant legislative rules of the departments of ecology,
33 labor and industries, health, revenue, and natural resources, the
34 employment security department, the forest practices board, the office
35 of the insurance commissioner, and to the legislative rules of the
36 department of fish and wildlife implementing chapter 75.20 RCW; and

37 (ii) Any rule of any agency, if this section is voluntarily made
38 applicable to the rule by the agency, or is made applicable to the rule
39 by a majority vote of the joint administrative rules review committee

1 within forty-five days of receiving the notice of proposed rule making
2 under RCW 34.05.320.

3 (b) This section does not apply to:

4 (i) Emergency rules adopted under RCW 34.05.350;

5 (ii) Rules relating only to internal governmental operations that
6 are not subject to violation by a nongovernment party;

7 (iii) Rules adopting or incorporating by reference without material
8 change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes,
9 rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs
10 other than those programs governing shorelines of state-wide
11 significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national
12 consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the
13 material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and
14 conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule;

15 (iv) Rules that only correct typographical errors, make address or
16 name changes, or clarify language of a rule without changing its
17 effect;

18 (v) Rules the content of which is explicitly and specifically
19 dictated by statute; or

20 (vi) Rules that set or adjust fees or rates pursuant to legislative
21 standards.

22 (c) For purposes of this subsection:

23 (i) A "procedural rule" is a rule that adopts, amends, or repeals
24 (A) any procedure, practice, or requirement relating to any agency
25 hearings; (B) any filing or related process requirement for making
26 application to an agency for a license or permit; or (C) any policy
27 statement pertaining to the consistent internal operations of an
28 agency.

29 (ii) An "interpretive rule" is a rule, the violation of which does
30 not subject a person to a penalty or sanction, that sets forth the
31 agency's interpretation of statutory provisions it administers.

32 (iii) A "significant legislative rule" is a rule other than a
33 procedural or interpretive rule that (A) adopts substantive provisions
34 of law pursuant to delegated legislative authority, the violation of
35 which subjects a violator of such rule to a penalty or sanction; (B)
36 establishes, alters, or revokes any qualification or standard for the
37 issuance, suspension, or revocation of a license or permit; or (C)
38 adopts a new, or makes significant amendments to, a policy or
39 regulatory program.

1 (d) In the notice of proposed rule making under RCW 34.05.320, an
2 agency shall state whether this section applies to the proposed rule
3 pursuant to (a)(i) of this subsection, or if the agency will apply this
4 section voluntarily.

5 (~~(6)~~) (7) By January 31, 1996, and by January 31st of each even-
6 numbered year thereafter, the office of financial management, after
7 consulting with state agencies, counties, and cities, and business,
8 labor, and environmental organizations, shall report to the governor
9 and the legislature regarding the effects of this section on the
10 regulatory system in this state. The report shall document:

11 (a) The rules proposed to which this section applied and to the
12 extent possible, how compliance with this section affected the
13 substance of the rule, if any, that the agency ultimately adopted;

14 (b) The costs incurred by state agencies in complying with this
15 section;

16 (c) Any legal action maintained based upon the alleged failure of
17 any agency to comply with this section, the costs to the state of such
18 action, and the result;

19 (d) The extent to which this section has adversely affected the
20 capacity of agencies to fulfill their legislatively prescribed mission;

21 (e) The extent to which this section has improved the acceptability
22 of state rules to those regulated; and

23 (f) Any other information considered by the office of financial
24 management to be useful in evaluating the effect of this section.

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