

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2467

As Reported By House Committee On:

Government Operations

Title: An act relating to industrial developments.

Brief Description: Revising the definition of "major industrial development" for the purpose of growth management planning.

Sponsors: Representatives Pennington, Morris, Carlson, Boldt and Benton.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Government Operations: 1/24/96, 1/26/96 [DP].

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Reams, Chairman; Cairnes, Vice Chairman; Goldsmith, Vice Chairman; Scott, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Conway; Hargrove; Honeyford; Hymes; Mulliken; Scheuerman; D. Schmidt; Van Luven and Wolfe.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Rust, Ranking Minority Member; and R. Fisher.

Staff: Steve Lundin (786-7127).

Background: The Growth Management Act was enacted in 1990 and 1991, and established a variety of requirements for certain counties and the cities located in those counties.

1. Urban growth areas.

Among other requirements, each county planning under all requirements of the Growth Management Act must designate urban growth areas within the county, inside of which urban growth shall occur and outside of which urban growth shall not occur. Every city must be included within an urban growth area. Other areas may be included in urban growth areas if they are already characterized by urban growth or are adjacent to such areas.

Several exceptions are established, which allow urban growth outside of urban growth areas. First, a county may authorize new fully contained communities outside urban growth areas, if certain conditions are met. Second, a county may authorize master planned resorts outside urban growth areas, if certain conditions are met. Third, a county may authorize major industrial developments outside urban growth areas, if certain conditions are met.

2. Major industrial developments.

Legislation was enacted in 1995, which allows counties to establish a process for approving major industrial developments outside urban growth areas. The county must consult with cities consistent with the provisions of the county-wide planning policy in establishing this process. A "major industrial development" is defined as a master planned location for a specific manufacturing or industrial business, or a specific commercial business other than retail commercial development or multi-tenant office parks, that

- Requires a parcel of land so large that no suitable parcels without critical areas are available within any urban growth area; or
- Is a natural-resource-based industry requiring location near agricultural land, forest land, or mineral resource land upon which it is dependent.

A variety of factors must be met before such development may be sited outside an urban growth area, including (a) infrastructure is provided and/or applicable impact fees have been paid, (b) buffers and environmental protection are provided, and (c) development regulations discourage urban growth in adjacent non-urban areas. Priority shall be given to applications for sites adjacent to or in proximity to the urban growth area.

3. Economic diversification strategies.

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development may "assist" private sector organizations, local governments, local economic development organizations, and higher education and training institutions to develop strategies to diversify the economy, facilitate technology transfer and diffusion, and increase value-added production by focusing on targeted sectors. Targeted sectors may include, but are not limited to software, forest products, biotechnology, environmental industries, recycling markets and waste reduction, aerospace, food processing, tourism, film and video, microelectronics, new materials, robotics, and machine tools.

Summary of Bill: The major industrial development exception to urban growth area designations that a county may authorize outside of urban growth areas is expanded to include a manufacturing or industrial park, or combination of parks, that

- Is located in proximity to significant, existing transportation infrastructure improvements;
- Includes more than 200 gross acres; and
- Is targeted and controlled by the county's comprehensive plan for the location of businesses in the targeted sectors included in the "state of Washington's diversification strategy."

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This is needed to put people to work. We want clean business. Jobs and the environment are compatible. King County does not include sufficient industrial land within its urban growth area. Don't push urban growth areas out to accommodate industrial growth, but use this approach.

Testimony Against: This is the camel's nose under the tent. We just established the major industrial development exception last year, and here we are again expanding it. County people have testified that the annual changes to the Growth Management Act are hard to keep up with. This is more of the same.

Testified: Representative Pennington, prime sponsor; Allan Darr, Operating Engineers Local 302; Matt Ryan, Kitsap County; Steven Harenstein and Bob Levin, Clark County Economic Development Council; J. Thomas Bernard, Bernard Development Company; Mike Ryherd, 1,000 Friends; and Scott Merriman, Washington Environmental Council.