
SENATE BILL 6188

State of Washington

57th Legislature 2001 First Special Session

By Senators Prentice, Swecker, Haugen, McDonald, Gardner, Horn, Rasmussen and Deccio

Read first time 05/21/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the efficiency and accountability of
2 the environmental permitting and compliance process for transportation
3 projects; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND FINDINGS. The
6 legislature finds that the public health and safety of its citizens,
7 natural resources, and the environment are vital interests of the state
8 that need to be protected and preserved. The legislature further finds
9 that the safety of the traveling public and the state's economic well-
10 being are vital interests that depend upon the development of cost-
11 effective and efficient transportation systems planned, designed,
12 constructed, and maintained through expedited permit decision-making
13 processes.

14 It is the intent of the legislature to achieve transportation
15 permit reform to expedite the delivery of statewide significant
16 transportation projects through a streamlined approach to environmental
17 permit decision making while improving environmental benefits through
18 a watershed-based approach to aquatic and natural resource management.
19 In order to optimize the limited resources available for transportation

1 system improvements and environmental protection, state regulatory and
2 natural resource agencies, public and private sector interests, Indian
3 tribes, and the department of transportation must work cooperatively to
4 establish common goals, minimize project delays, develop consistency in
5 the application of environmental standards, maximize environmental
6 benefits through coordinated investment strategies, and eliminate
7 duplicative processes through delegation of selected permit drafting
8 and compliance activities between state and federal agencies.

9 Therefore, the transportation permit efficiency and accountability
10 committee is created. The committee must conduct three environmental
11 permit streamlining pilot programs. The committee must also identify
12 and develop general permits and a programmatic consultation process.
13 Finally, the committee must explore other permit streamlining
14 opportunities by designating transportation projects of statewide
15 significance and selected delegation of permit authority.

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