
HOUSE BILL 1850

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Hayes, Clibborn, Orcutt, Takko, Harmsworth, Riccelli, Rodne, Bergquist, Wilson, Robinson, Smith, Muri, and Magendanz

Read first time 01/30/15. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the efficiency of conducting certain
2 department of transportation actions by exempting these actions from
3 obtaining local reviews or permits under the shoreline management
4 act; amending RCW 90.58.355; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** To ensure that vital maintenance and minor
7 safety upgrades to state transportation facilities are efficiently
8 achieved, the legislature finds that regulatory reviews under chapter
9 90.58 RCW should be reformed. The activities of the department of
10 transportation are guided by manuals and standards of practice
11 designed to effectively avoid and minimize impacts to the
12 environment. These activities are also subject to periodically
13 renewed programmatic permits from federal agencies, the department of
14 fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology water quality
15 program. Adding local permits or letters of exemption under the
16 shoreline management act does not substantively improve the
17 environmental outcomes of this work. Adding these local reviews
18 creates time delays, the imposition of inconsistent standards and
19 manuals, and uncertainty in the permitting process. Therefore, the
20 legislature finds that it is in the public interest to exclude state

1 highway maintenance and minor safety upgrade activities from local
2 review and approval processes under the shoreline management act.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 90.58.355 and 2012 c 169 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Requirements to obtain a substantial development permit,
6 conditional use permit, ~~((or))~~ variance ~~((shall))~~, letter of
7 exemption, or other review conducted by a local government to
8 implement this chapter do not apply to ~~((any person))~~:

9 (1) Any person conducting a remedial action at a facility
10 pursuant to a consent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant
11 to chapter 70.105D RCW, or to the department of ecology when it
12 conducts a remedial action under chapter 70.105D RCW. The department
13 must ensure compliance with the substantive requirements of this
14 chapter through the consent decree, order, or agreed order issued
15 pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, or during the department-conducted
16 remedial action, through the procedures developed by the department
17 pursuant to RCW 70.105D.090; ~~((or))~~

18 (2) Any person installing site improvements for storm water
19 treatment in an existing boatyard facility to meet requirements of a
20 national pollutant discharge elimination system storm water general
21 permit. The department must ensure compliance with the substantive
22 requirements of this chapter through the review of engineering
23 reports, site plans, and other documents related to the installation
24 of boatyard storm water treatment facilities; or

25 (3)(a) The following department of transportation projects and
26 activities if they meet the conditions of (b) of this subsection:

27 (i) Maintenance, repair, reconstruction, restoration,
28 retrofitting, or replacement of any road, highway, bridge, tunnel, or
29 transit facility such as a ferry dock or bus transfer station,
30 including ancillary transportation facilities such as
31 pedestrian/bicycle paths and bike lanes;

32 (ii) Construction or installation of safety structures and
33 equipment, including pavement marking, freeway surveillance and
34 control systems, railroad protective devices not including grade-
35 separated crossings, grooving, glare screen, safety barriers, energy
36 attenuators, and hazard/danger tree removal.

37 (b) Activities exempted under this subsection must occur within
38 the right-of-way of state highway facilities or the lease or
39 ownership area for ferry terminals. For purposes of this section, the

1 replacement of structures and construction or installation of safety
2 structures and equipment does not include new travel lanes or the
3 expansion of transportation facilities. The replacement of structures
4 must be comparable to the original structure, including size, shape,
5 configuration, and location, except to meet current engineering
6 standards or environmental permit requirements.

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