
HOUSE BILL 1321

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Wylie, Vick, Harris, Stonier, and Rude

Read first time 01/18/19. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring reporting regarding the costs of
2 certain transportation projects; adding a new section to chapter
3 47.01 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Policymakers sometimes do not fully
6 understand the purposes, complexities, costs, and timing of the
7 consulting costs on transportation megaprojects. Often times, these
8 consultant costs are substantial, and on occasion can be more than
9 thirty percent of the total project cost. Many of the project
10 elements that are largely or entirely dealt with by consultants are
11 driven by federal and state law, and while required and often
12 meritorious, are not well understood. It is thus the intent of the
13 legislature to create a collaborative process between state agencies
14 and the legislature to fully understand the cost of megaprojects and
15 thereby achieve accountability between agencies, the legislature, and
16 the citizens of the state of Washington.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) For any project reasonably determined to have a total cost,
20 in year of expenditure dollars, of more than five hundred million

1 dollars, the department shall provide a report to the chair and
2 ranking members of the transportation committees of the legislature
3 or the joint transportation committee if the legislature is not in
4 session. The report must be provided as soon as is practicable, after
5 the determination of the cost of the project, and prior to the
6 letting of any consultant contracts related to the project.

7 (2) The report required under subsection (1) of this section must
8 provide the following information:

9 (a) Each of the activities for which consultants are expected to
10 be utilized;

11 (b) Each of the requirements in state or federal law, if any,
12 that necessitates the use of consultants;

13 (c) The expected outcomes of studies, analyses, and mitigation
14 efforts related to the project; and

15 (d) The expected consultant costs for each of the activities
16 identified pursuant to (a) of this subsection.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect August 1, 2019.

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