

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2677

As Passed House
February 10, 1994

Title: An act relating to expediting the implementation of the merger of the departments of community development and trade and economic development.

Brief Description: Expediting the merger of the departments of community development and trade and economic development.

Sponsors: Representatives Karahalios, Reams, Anderson, Jones, Kessler and Conway; by request of Governor Lowry.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
State Government, February 2, 1994, DP;
Passed House, February 10, 1994, 94-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members:
Representatives Anderson, Chair; Veloria, Vice Chair; Reams, Ranking Minority Member; L. Thomas, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Conway; Dyer; King and Pruitt.

Staff: Bonnie Austin (786-7135).

Background: In 1993 the Legislature enacted legislation merging the Department of Community Development and the Department of Trade and Economic Development, effective July 1, 1994. The merger plan was completed in November of 1993. According to the Governor's Office, the merger of the two departments is ready to proceed.

Summary of Bill: The Department of Community Development and the Department of Trade and Economic Development are merged effective March 1, 1994.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on March 1, 1994.

Testimony For: This is a testament to the efficiency and dedication of the state employees involved in the merger process. The merger is ready to proceed ahead of schedule.

In order for these agencies to begin to conduct their business, the merger needs to be legally effective. Completing the process also relieves employee anxiety.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Rep. Sue Karahalios, prime sponsor (pro); Fred Hellberg, Governor's Office & Office of Financial Management (pro); and Bev Hermanson, Washington Federation of State Employees (pro).