
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1204

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By House Committee on Capital Budget (originally sponsored by Representatives K. Schmidt, Fisher, Romero, Mitchell, G. Chandler, Murray, Linville and Wood)

Read first time 03/08/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordination of environmental restoration and
2 land acquisition; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that
6 state agencies that provide environmental protection, restoration,
7 enhancement, and mitigation by financing, or undertaking land
8 acquisition, facility construction, or other activities be better
9 coordinated with each other. Such coordination offers opportunities to
10 jointly plan, finance, construct, permit, and operate facilities, to
11 better address the needs of the environment on a local and regional
12 basis, and to better address state-wide priorities to achieve the most
13 beneficial and cost-effective results. The intent of the legislature
14 is not to reduce or eliminate any environmental mitigation obligation
15 of a government agency, but instead to more effectively meet that
16 obligation through better coordination and identification of projects
17 with highest environmental benefit.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply

2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (1) "Advisory committee" means a committee advisory to the office
4 consisting of representatives from the departments of community, trade,
5 and economic development; ecology; fish and wildlife; natural
6 resources; the parks and recreation commission; the interagency
7 committee for outdoor recreation; the conservation commission; and the
8 office of financial management. Other members may be added by majority
9 vote of the committee. The governor, or the governor's designee, shall
10 serve as chair of the advisory committee.

11 (2) "Environmental project" means land acquisition, facility
12 construction, or other activity providing environmental protection,
13 restoration, enhancement, or compensatory mitigation undertaken by
14 state agencies or funded by state financial assistance programs. It
15 does not mean the sale, transfer, exchange, or acquisition of trust
16 lands managed by state agencies or regulatory environmental protection
17 activities.

18 (3) "Office" means the environmental affairs office of the
19 department of transportation.

20 (4) "Surplus real property" means any real property that is not
21 needed by an agency now or in the foreseeable future.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The office shall provide a central

23 depository for information collected under this chapter. This
24 depository shall collect and disseminate pertinent information on
25 environmental projects through electronic based systems that may
26 include geographic information systems and internet functionality.

27 (2) By December 31, 1999, the governor's office shall provide a
28 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the progress
29 of the coordination program and the advisory committee.

30 (3) By October 31, 2000, the governor's office shall report to the
31 appropriate committees of the legislature its findings and
32 recommendations on coordination of environmental projects. The report
33 shall include a description of the methods used to: Collect
34 information on environmental projects, determine coordination
35 opportunities, examine programs, and determine benefits and costs of
36 recommended actions.

37 (4) Beginning with fiscal year 2001, and each fiscal year
38 thereafter, state agencies that receive an appropriation in the capital

1 budget or the transportation budget for an environmental project shall
2 provide project information, including geographic location and general
3 descriptive information, to the office no later than sixty days after
4 the end of the fiscal year.

5 (5) Beginning with fiscal year 2003, and each fiscal year
6 thereafter, state agencies that receive an appropriation in the omnibus
7 appropriations act for an environmental project shall provide project
8 information, including geographic location and general descriptive
9 information, to the office no later than sixty days after the end of
10 the fiscal year.

11 (6) Beginning with fiscal year 2005, and each fiscal year
12 thereafter, all state agencies that have surplus real property
13 available for sale, trade, lease, or reuse by other government entities
14 shall provide information on those properties, including geographic
15 location and general descriptive information, to the office no later
16 than sixty days after the end of the fiscal year.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The advisory committee is established to
18 advise and assist the office in:

19 (1) Developing methods and data base systems that facilitate the
20 collection and coordination of environmental project information.

21 (2) Examining state financial assistance programs that provide
22 funding for environmental protection, enhancement, restoration, and
23 mitigation. The advisory committee shall identify opportunities for
24 improved coordination that would make it easier and more efficient for
25 agencies and organizations seeking funding to: Locate the programs,
26 apply for funding, seek and receive technical assistance, provide
27 required financial reports, provide compliance and environmental
28 monitoring information, and provide project related information such as
29 site location.

30 (3) Investigating opportunities for improved coordination of
31 financial assistance programs for environmental projects while
32 complying with the statutory purpose and policy objective of these
33 programs. Areas for possible improved coordination may include:
34 Program information dissemination; application deadlines; state-wide,
35 regional, and local priorities for environmental protection,
36 enhancement, restoration, and mitigation; application forms and
37 required application information; technical assistance; environmental
38 reporting and monitoring; and project related data.

1 (4) Making recommendations on the role that other state agencies,
2 federal, tribal, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations,
3 and the general public can play in providing information that would
4 result in increased coordination of environmental protection,
5 restoration, enhancement, and mitigation activities. The advisory
6 committee shall solicit comments from agencies and organizations that
7 are eligible for state financial assistance programs and solicit
8 comments from federal, tribal, and local organizations that provide
9 financial assistance for environmental projects.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted
11 in any manner by a state, federal, or local governmental agency to
12 require any additional permitting review or approval process or
13 compliance procedure from any nongovernmental entity or individual
14 person.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute
16 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
18 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
19 June 30, 1999, in the state transportation budget or the omnibus
20 appropriations act, this act is null and void.

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