
SENATE BILL 6816

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators T. Sheldon and Hale

Read first time 02/16/2002. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to implementing the environmental, regulatory, and
2 land use recommendations of the Washington competitiveness council; and
3 creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that an educated and
6 skilled work force, and a 21st century infrastructure, a tax and
7 regulatory environment that encourages entrepreneurship and business
8 growth, and a desirable quality of life for all Washington citizens are
9 necessary elements if the state is to economically and environmentally
10 prosper. The legislature further finds that recent events, including
11 the national economic downturn, the Pacific Northwest drought, the
12 energy crisis, and events of September 11, 2001, all have resulted in
13 a number of business closures in the technology sector, layoffs in the
14 aerospace, airline, hospitality, and aluminum industries, and
15 continuing economic hardship in the agriculture and food processing
16 sectors, compel the reexamination of state plans to accomplish its
17 economic, business growth, development, and environmental objectives.
18 The legislature further finds that the final report of the Washington
19 competitiveness council, issued in December 2001, includes a number of

1 specific recommendations for improving the state's business climate,
2 including the state's environmental, land use, and regulatory
3 environment, many of which require legislative action.

4 It is the intent of the legislature to consider the recommendations
5 of the Washington competitiveness council for improvement of the
6 state's environmental, land use, and regulatory system, as articulated
7 in its final report, and to implement those legislative recommendations
8 that are in the best interests of the state of Washington.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint select committee on
10 environmental, regulatory, and land use competitiveness is created.
11 The committee is composed of twelve voting members, including four
12 members from the house of representatives, two from each of the two
13 largest caucuses, appointed by the respective caucus chairs; four
14 senators, two from each of the two largest caucuses, appointed by the
15 respective caucus chairs; and four members of the Washington
16 competitiveness council, appointed by the governor.

17 (2) The committee shall create an advisory committee of not less
18 than eight nor more than sixteen members, composed of representatives
19 of interested and affected industries, businesses, commercial and
20 environmental groups, and state and local governments, and may create
21 technical committees.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The committee shall consider the
23 recommendations of the Washington competitiveness council for the
24 environmental regulatory and permitting system, and shall draft
25 proposed legislation to implement each of those recommendations that
26 require, or can be implemented by, legislative action. Specifically,
27 the committee shall consider, draft, and recommend legislation for the
28 following recommendations:

- 29 (a) 3.0 Environmental regulatory and permitting system;
30 (b) 3.3.4 Amend the administrative procedure act under chapter
31 34.05 RCW;
32 (c) 3.3.5 Consolidate permit processes, reduce the number of
33 permits required to complete a project, and improve
34 permit coordination among the agencies;
35 (d) 3.3.7 Meet the goals of the growth management act under
36 chapter 36.70A RCW, generally;

1 (e) 3.3.9 Reduce the number of environmental adjudication bodies;
2 and

3 (f) 3.3.10 Benchmark and enforce local government permitting
4 timelines.

5 (2) In drafting legislation to implement the recommendations of the
6 Washington competitiveness council, the committee shall also consider
7 the reports and recommendations of the transportation permit efficiency
8 and accountability committee under RCW 47.06C.030.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The committee shall monitor, analyze, and
10 report to the legislature as provided in section 7 of this act with
11 respect to ongoing efforts, proposals, and actions taken to implement
12 the following recommendations of the Washington competitiveness
13 council:

14 (1) 3.3.2 Reinvent the department of ecology to increase agency
15 accountability and responsiveness;

16 (2) 3.3.6 Improve Washington's water rights system.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The committee shall develop and
18 recommend a process, mechanism time schedule, and proposed funding for
19 the creation of a consolidated land use code, as recommended in the
20 Washington competitiveness council report, recommendation 3.3.8, that
21 integrates all of Washington's land use and environmental laws in a
22 single manageable statute while maintaining environmental values.

23 (2) The Washington competitiveness council report recognized that
24 a consolidated land use code will take time to develop and implement
25 and that it will also require adequate funding.

26 (3) In 1995, in Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1724, the
27 legislature recognized the growth management act as the fundamental
28 building block of regulatory reform, and that it provides the means to
29 effectively combine certainty for planning and development decisions,
30 reasonable environmental protection, long-range planning for
31 cost-effective infrastructure, and orderly growth and development by
32 the integration and consolidation of the state's land use and
33 environmental laws into a simple, manageable statute.

34 (4) The land use study commission identified the state
35 environmental policy act, the growth management act, the shoreline
36 management act, the environmental hearings office statutes, the
37 planning enabling statutes, the regional transportation planning act,

1 the subdivision and platting statutes, impact fees, project review, and
2 the land use petition act as appropriate for inclusion in the
3 consolidated land use code, concluding that the growth management act
4 should serve as the integrating framework for land use and
5 environmental decisions.

6 (5) The committee shall include its recommendations to the
7 legislature in its report as provided in section 7 of this act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The committee shall prepare a cost/benefit
9 and fiscal impact analysis for each of the recommendations the
10 committee proposes for consideration by the legislature.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The committee shall select a chair from
12 among the legislators. The committee shall provide its final report
13 and proposed draft legislation to the legislature on or before December
14 31, 2002.

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