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**Technology & Economic Development  
Committee**

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**HB 2594**

**Brief Description:** Studying the feasibility of a statewide infrastructure authority.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Morris, Hudgins and Wylie.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Creates the Joint Select Committee on Infrastructure to assess state infrastructure needs and study the feasibility of a statewide infrastructure authority.

**Hearing Date:** 1/17/18

**Staff:** Kirsten Lee (786-7133).

**Background:**

A variety of state agencies manage infrastructure needs in Washington, including the Department of Transportation, the Utilities and Transportation Commission, and the Department of Commerce. These agencies handle issues related to telecommunications, rail, air, roads, bridges, ferries, ports, water and sewer systems, and housing.

Additionally, the Joint Select Committee on Transportation (JTC) reviews and researches transportation programs and issues to better inform state and local government policy makers, including legislators. The JTC and its executive committee consist of the chairs and ranking members of the House Transportation Committee and Senate Transportation Committee. All members of the House and Senate standing committees on transportation may serve on the JTC when appointed by the executive committee.

**Summary of Bill:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The Joint Select Committee on Infrastructure (JSCI) is created. The committee must study issues relating to: identifying infrastructure needs across the state, including fiber broadband, high-speed rail, and long haul air cargo; assessing organizational models for a new statewide infrastructure authority; funding identified infrastructure development; considering legal aspects of the organizational and funding models; describing potential legislation to implement the infrastructure authority; and identifying an initial list of certain infrastructure projects. The JSCI must make its recommendations to the appropriate legislative committees by December 1, 2019. Staff support is provided by Senate Committee Services and the House of Representatives Office of Program Research. The JSCI may form an advisory committee or contract with additional parties who have technical expertise to perform its duties.

The JSCI consists of eight members, two members from each caucus in the House appointed by the Speaker of the House, and two members from each caucus in the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate. At least two members from each caucus must be members of the JTC and at least two members from each caucus must be members of the House and Senate standing committees on transportation and economic development.

The JSCI expires January 1, 2020.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.