
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1017

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Environment (originally sponsored by Representatives McCaslin, Barkis, Blake, Holy, Pettigrew, Haler, Taylor, Shea, Harris, Chandler, Smith, Muri, Stokesbary, Nealey, Stambaugh, Griffey, Vick, Buys, Dye, Short, Pike, Wilcox, Van Werven, Hargrove, Young, Klippert, Kilduff, and Sawyer)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to the siting of schools and school facilities;
2 adding new sections to chapter 36.70A RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The office of the superintendent of public
6 instruction and the department of commerce are each directed, no
7 later than June 30, 2018, to adopt rules to:

8 (1) Revise the population projection and enrollment forecast
9 allocation process adopted by rule by the office of the
10 superintendent of public instruction in order to resolve
11 inconsistencies between population projections produced by the office
12 of financial management and enrollment projections produced by the
13 office of the superintendent of public instruction;

14 (2) Revise the acreage guidelines for new schools adopted by rule
15 by the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

16 (3) Develop policies that favor remodeling existing schools and
17 that encourage selection of infill sites for new schools; and

18 (4) Create school siting standards that recognize the differences
19 between school districts serving exclusively urban communities,
20 exclusively rural communities, and those districts serving both urban
21 and rural communities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) A county may allow for up to three school sites to be sited
4 in rural areas, following a determination by the county decision
5 maker that:

6 (a) No alternative sites are both available and suitable;

7 (b) New or upgraded infrastructure with a reasonable nexus to the
8 school project is provided for by the school district, including the
9 payment of any applicable impact fees;

10 (c) On-site and off-site infrastructure and service impacts are
11 fully considered and mitigated;

12 (d) Transportation demand management programs required by the
13 city, county, or regional transportation planning organization,
14 pursuant to this chapter or chapter 47.80 RCW, are provided and
15 implemented by the school district;

16 (e) Buffers are provided on school-owned property between the
17 school development and adjacent nonurban areas. The buffer must be
18 planted with native vegetation and be of sufficient width and
19 planting to protect the school from the adverse impacts of allowed
20 nonurban uses and to protect the allowed nonurban uses from impacts
21 from the school. The buffer must be maintained for the duration of
22 the use of the school site;

23 (f) Environmental protection, including air and water quality,
24 has been addressed and provided for;

25 (g) The county has adopted development regulations under this
26 chapter to ensure that urban growth will not occur in adjacent
27 nonurban areas;

28 (h) Impacts on designated agricultural lands, forestlands, and
29 mineral resource lands are avoided; and

30 (i) The plan for the school development is consistent with the
31 county's development regulations concerning the protection of
32 critical areas. The selection of the school site must seek to avoid
33 risk of natural hazards.

34 (2) For the purposes of this section, alternative sites are
35 considered unavailable when an inventory of developable land has been
36 conducted by the school district, in consultation with the county and
37 cities, and subject to final approval by the county. In order to
38 support a determination that alternative sites are unavailable, a
39 county's approval of such an inventory must be supported by findings
40 on the part of the county that developable land suitable to site the

1 school is unavailable within the urban growth area and relevant
2 services area, taking into consideration school service area needs,
3 locally adopted educational program requirements, and the extent to
4 which there is vacant and suitable land available within the growth
5 area.

6 (3) If necessary to implement this section, the county
7 legislative authority must amend the countywide planning policies
8 consistent with this section, through the process established within
9 that county.

10 (4) A county located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains
11 may site a school under this section only if it has a population
12 greater than eight hundred thousand but less than one million five
13 hundred thousand.

14 (5) For the purposes of this section, proximity to a school in a
15 rural area is not considered urban growth for the purpose of removing
16 a resource land designation or expanding an urban growth area.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 In a county that chooses to site schools under section 2 of this
20 act, each school district within the county must participate in the
21 county's periodic updates required by RCW 36.70A.130(1)(b) by:

22 (1) Coordinating its enrollment forecasts and projections with
23 the county's adopted population projections;

24 (2) Identifying school siting criteria with the county, cities,
25 and regional transportation planning organizations;

26 (3) Identifying suitable school sites with the county and cities,
27 with priority to siting urban-serving schools in existing cities and
28 towns in locations where students can safely walk and bicycle to the
29 school from their homes and that can effectively be served with
30 transit; and

31 (4) Working with the county and cities to identify school costs
32 and funding for the capital facilities plan element required by RCW
33 36.70A.070(3).

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