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HOUSE BILL 1899

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Cothorn, H. Myers, Horn, Eide, Edmondson, Finkbeiner, Jones, Holm, Lemmon, Orr, Roland and L. Johnson

Read first time 02/15/93. Referred to Committee on Environmental Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to the review of environmental protection and land  
2 laws; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it has been ten  
5 years since the state's environmental protection act has been reviewed.  
6 Since that time the legislature has enacted the growth management act  
7 and numerous other environmental protection laws. A comprehensive  
8 review of the state environmental policy act of 1971, the growth  
9 management acts, and related laws is now necessary to reduce areas of  
10 potential duplication, to provide for regulatory streamlining, to  
11 ensure effective environmental protection, and to provide greater  
12 certainty and efficiency in development decisions. The state's growth  
13 management acts can provide an integrating framework to ensure that  
14 land use and environmental protection are effectively linked.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is established the commission on  
16 environmental regulatory streamlining which shall be composed as  
17 follows: Four members of the senate appointed by the president of the  
18 senate, including two members from each caucus; four members of the

1 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of  
2 representatives, including two members from each caucus; and the  
3 following members appointed by the governor: Two representatives of  
4 industry; two representatives of the environmental community; one  
5 representative of cities; one representative of counties; and one  
6 public member who shall serve as chairperson.

7 Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as  
8 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Legislative members shall be  
9 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 44.04.120.

10 The commission shall:

11 (1) Review the key relationships and areas of overlap between the  
12 state's central environmental and land use laws including but not  
13 limited to the state environmental policy act, growth management acts,  
14 shorelines management act of 1971, and water resource and conservation  
15 laws. The commission shall develop recommendations that maintain the  
16 state's high standards of environmental protection while integrating  
17 and streamlining laws that have similar purposes. The commission shall  
18 address issues of the additive effect and cost of regulation, the lack  
19 of consistent environmental and land use standards, and potential gaps  
20 in environmental protection;

21 (2) Appoint members of an advisory committee to advise the  
22 commission in the performance of its duties. The membership of the  
23 advisory committee shall be fairly balanced in terms of the points of  
24 view and interests represented and shall include, but not be limited  
25 to, representatives of business, environment, labor, academia, the  
26 public at-large, and different geographic regions of the state.  
27 Members of the committee shall serve without compensation;

28 (3) Utilize legislative staff assistance which shall be provided by  
29 the appropriate legislative committees and conduct such studies as are  
30 necessary for the performance of its duties. State agencies may assign  
31 to the commission such personnel as are necessary to assist the  
32 commission in the performance of its duties. These personnel shall be  
33 used to the maximum extent practicable;

34 (4) Hold public hearings to ensure early and meaningful input and  
35 involvement in the commission's work;

36 (5) Review and recommend model state or local processes,  
37 regulations, or ordinances that provide integrated and streamlined land  
38 use management and environmental protection; and

39 (6) Issue a final report prior to the 1995 regular session.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   The commission shall expire on July 1, 1995.

2        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**   The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or  
3 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
4 ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the commission on  
5 environmental regulatory streamlining to carry out the purposes of this  
6 act.   This amount shall be matched by other private and public sector  
7 donations.

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