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SENATE BILL 6555

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State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1994 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Nelson, Vognild, Sheldon, Oke and Winsley

Read first time 01/27/94. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to local government coordination of approvals for  
2 major transportation projects; adding new sections to chapter 36.70A  
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    INTENT.    The legislature recognizes that  
6 there are major transportation projects that affect multiple  
7 jurisdictions as to economic development, fiscal influence,  
8 environmental consequences, land use implications, and mobility of  
9 people and goods. The legislature further recognizes that affected  
10 jurisdictions have important interests that must be addressed, and that  
11 these jurisdictions' present planning and permitting authority may  
12 result in multiple local permits and other requirements being specified  
13 for the projects.

14            The legislature finds that the present permitting system may result  
15 in segmented and sequential decisions by local governments that do not  
16 optimally serve all the parties with an interest in the decisions. The  
17 present system may also make more difficult achieving the consistency  
18 among plans and actions that is an important aspect of this chapter.

1       It is the intent of the legislature to provide for more efficiency  
2 and equity in the decisions of local governments regarding major  
3 transportation projects by encouraging coordination or consolidation of  
4 the processes for reviewing planning and permitting requirements for  
5 those projects. The legislature intends that local governments  
6 coordinate their regulatory decisions by considering together the range  
7 of local, state, and federal requirements for major transportation  
8 projects. Nothing in sections 1 through 4 of this act alters the  
9 authority of cities or counties under any other planning or permitting  
10 statute.

11       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   COLLABORATIVE PROJECT REVIEW.   (1) The  
12 legislative authority of a county that plans under this chapter shall  
13 establish, in cooperation with the cities located in whole or in part  
14 within the county and using the process established under RCW  
15 36.70A.210 or a similar collaborative process, a mechanism for review  
16 of proposals for major transportation projects within that county.

17       (2) A major transportation project review process must include, at  
18 a minimum, procedures by which the county will serve as the coordinator  
19 for all local permits and planning requirements for the project. The  
20 process may provide that the county issue either a consolidated permit  
21 or a package of permits that contain all of the requirements of the  
22 local governments affected by the project, if those other local  
23 governments have agreed to the consolidation of requirements.

24       (3) Two or more contiguous counties may adopt multicounty processes  
25 for reviewing proposals for major transportation projects according to  
26 the process established under this section or other processes agreed to  
27 among the counties and cities within the affected counties throughout  
28 the multicounty region.

29       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   ELIGIBILITY.   Transportation projects  
30 eligible for consideration under section 2 of this act are those that  
31 a county has designated as essential public facilities under RCW  
32 36.70A.200.

33       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**   TIMING.   Counties required by section 2 of  
34 this act to adopt major transportation project review processes shall  
35 adopt those processes by the deadline for adoption of consistent  
36 development regulations under RCW 36.70A.040.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.**   Section captions used in this act constitute  
2 no part of the law.

3        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.**   Sections 1 through 4 of this act are added  
4 to chapter 36.70A RCW.

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