

2985

Sponsor(s): Representatives Ericksen, Anderson, Armstrong, Schindler, Holmquist and Mielke

Brief Description: Streamlining transportation project permits.

HB 2985 - DIGEST

Finds that watershed planning and protection can enhance the selection of wetland, storm water, and riparian mitigation sites.

Finds that locating mitigation sites adjacent to or in close proximity to impacted sites may not be the most beneficial use of those sites within a watershed, and that locating mitigation sites to better locations within a watershed can both enhance the benefits of department mitigation and reduce the cost of that mitigation.

Provides that, when developing wetlands, storm water, and riparian mitigation sites for ecological restoration and enhancement as compensation for impacts within a water resource inventory area, the department may locate those wetlands at any location within the same water resource inventory area. In evaluating mitigation sites, the department shall consider the hydrology of the watershed, the location of other environmental projects and activities by regional fishery enhancement groups or other watershed groups, and the costs and benefits of those sites.

Directs the department to develop a unified one-stop permit process for transportation projects to comply with environmental standards and best management practices set forth in federal, state, and local laws and regulations.