

---

HOUSE BILL 2692

---

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Taylor, Angel, Short, Shea, Haler, DeBolt, Kretz, Johnson, Bailey, Ross, Hope, and McCune

Read first time 01/12/10. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to the growth management hearings boards; amending  
2 RCW 36.70A.130, 36.70A.172, 36.70A.250, 36.70A.260, 36.70A.270,  
3 36.70A.280, 36.70A.290, 36.70A.295, 36.70A.302, 36.70A.310,  
4 36.70A.3201, 36.70A.345, 90.58.190, 34.05.518, and 34.12.020; adding a  
5 new section to chapter 36.70A RCW; reenacting and amending RCW  
6 36.70A.110; and creating a new section.

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

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.110 and 2009 c 342 s 1 and 2009 c 121 s 1 are  
9 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

10 (1) Each county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW  
11 36.70A.040 shall designate an urban growth area or areas within which  
12 urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur  
13 only if it is not urban in nature. Each city that is located in such  
14 a county shall be included within an urban growth area. An urban  
15 growth area may include more than a single city. An urban growth area  
16 may include territory that is located outside of a city only if such  
17 territory already is characterized by urban growth whether or not the  
18 urban growth area includes a city, or is adjacent to territory already

1 characterized by urban growth, or is a designated new fully contained  
2 community as defined by RCW 36.70A.350.

3 (2) Based upon the growth management population projection made for  
4 the county by the office of financial management, the county and each  
5 city within the county shall include areas and densities sufficient to  
6 permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the county or  
7 city for the succeeding twenty-year period, except for those urban  
8 growth areas contained totally within a national historical reserve.  
9 As part of this planning process, each city within the county must  
10 include areas sufficient to accommodate the broad range of needs and  
11 uses that will accompany the projected urban growth including, as  
12 appropriate, medical, governmental, institutional, commercial, service,  
13 retail, and other nonresidential uses.

14 Each urban growth area shall permit urban densities and shall  
15 include greenbelt and open space areas. In the case of urban growth  
16 areas contained totally within a national historical reserve, the city  
17 may restrict densities, intensities, and forms of urban growth as  
18 determined to be necessary and appropriate to protect the physical,  
19 cultural, or historic integrity of the reserve. An urban growth area  
20 determination may include a reasonable land market supply factor and  
21 shall permit a range of urban densities and uses. In determining this  
22 market factor, cities and counties may consider local circumstances.  
23 Cities and counties have discretion in their comprehensive plans to  
24 make many choices about accommodating growth.

25 Within one year of July 1, 1990, each county that as of June 1,  
26 1991, was required or chose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, shall begin  
27 consulting with each city located within its boundaries and each city  
28 shall propose the location of an urban growth area. Within sixty days  
29 of the date the county legislative authority of a county adopts its  
30 resolution of intention or of certification by the office of financial  
31 management, all other counties that are required or choose to plan  
32 under RCW 36.70A.040 shall begin this consultation with each city  
33 located within its boundaries. The county shall attempt to reach  
34 agreement with each city on the location of an urban growth area within  
35 which the city is located. If such an agreement is not reached with  
36 each city located within the urban growth area, the county shall  
37 justify in writing why it so designated the area an urban growth area.  
38 A city may object formally with the department over the designation of

1 the urban growth area within which it is located. Where appropriate,  
2 the department shall attempt to resolve the conflicts, including the  
3 use of mediation services.

4 (3) Urban growth should be located first in areas already  
5 characterized by urban growth that have adequate existing public  
6 facility and service capacities to serve such development, second in  
7 areas already characterized by urban growth that will be served  
8 adequately by a combination of both existing public facilities and  
9 services and any additional needed public facilities and services that  
10 are provided by either public or private sources, and third in the  
11 remaining portions of the urban growth areas. Urban growth may also be  
12 located in designated new fully contained communities as defined by RCW  
13 36.70A.350.

14 (4) In general, cities are the units of local government most  
15 appropriate to provide urban governmental services. In general, it is  
16 not appropriate that urban governmental services be extended to or  
17 expanded in rural areas except in those limited circumstances shown to  
18 be necessary to protect basic public health and safety and the  
19 environment and when such services are financially supportable at rural  
20 densities and do not permit urban development.

21 (5) On or before October 1, 1993, each county that was initially  
22 required to plan under RCW 36.70A.040(1) shall adopt development  
23 regulations designating interim urban growth areas under this chapter.  
24 Within three years and three months of the date the county legislative  
25 authority of a county adopts its resolution of intention or of  
26 certification by the office of financial management, all other counties  
27 that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall adopt  
28 development regulations designating interim urban growth areas under  
29 this chapter. Adoption of the interim urban growth areas may only  
30 occur after public notice; public hearing; and compliance with the  
31 state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, and under this  
32 section. Such action may be appealed to the ((appropriate)) growth  
33 management hearings board under RCW 36.70A.280. Final urban growth  
34 areas shall be adopted at the time of comprehensive plan adoption under  
35 this chapter.

36 (6) Each county shall include designations of urban growth areas in  
37 its comprehensive plan.

1 (7) An urban growth area designated in accordance with this section  
2 may include within its boundaries urban service areas or potential  
3 annexation areas designated for specific cities or towns within the  
4 county.

5 (8)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the expansion  
6 of an urban growth area is prohibited into the one hundred year  
7 floodplain of any river or river segment that: (i) Is located west of  
8 the crest of the Cascade mountains; and (ii) has a mean annual flow of  
9 one thousand or more cubic feet per second as determined by the  
10 department of ecology.

11 (b) Subsection (8)(a) of this section does not apply to:

12 (i) Urban growth areas that are fully contained within a floodplain  
13 and lack adjacent buildable areas outside the floodplain;

14 (ii) Urban growth areas where expansions are precluded outside  
15 floodplains because:

16 (A) Urban governmental services cannot be physically provided to  
17 serve areas outside the floodplain; or

18 (B) Expansions outside the floodplain would require a river or  
19 estuary crossing to access the expansion; or

20 (iii) Urban growth area expansions where:

21 (A) Public facilities already exist within the floodplain and the  
22 expansion of an existing public facility is only possible on the land  
23 to be included in the urban growth area and located within the  
24 floodplain; or

25 (B) Urban development already exists within a floodplain as of July  
26 26, 2009, and is adjacent to, but outside of, the urban growth area,  
27 and the expansion of the urban growth area is necessary to include such  
28 urban development within the urban growth area; or

29 (C) The land is owned by a jurisdiction planning under this chapter  
30 or the rights to the development of the land have been permanently  
31 extinguished, and the following criteria are met:

32 (I) The permissible use of the land is limited to one of the  
33 following: Outdoor recreation; environmentally beneficial projects,  
34 including but not limited to habitat enhancement or environmental  
35 restoration; storm water facilities; flood control facilities; or  
36 underground conveyances; and

37 (II) The development and use of such facilities or projects will

1 not decrease flood storage, increase storm water runoff, discharge  
2 pollutants to fresh or salt waters during normal operations or floods,  
3 or increase hazards to people and property.

4 (c) For the purposes of this subsection (8), "one hundred year  
5 floodplain" means the same as "special flood hazard area" as set forth  
6 in WAC 173-158-040 as it exists on July 26, 2009.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.70A.130 and 2009 c 479 s 23 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1)(a) Each comprehensive land use plan and development regulations  
10 shall be subject to continuing review and evaluation by the county or  
11 city that adopted them. Except as otherwise provided, a county or city  
12 shall take legislative action to review and, if needed, revise its  
13 comprehensive land use plan and development regulations to ensure the  
14 plan and regulations comply with the requirements of this chapter  
15 according to the time periods specified in subsection (4) of this  
16 section.

17 (b) Except as otherwise provided, a county or city not planning  
18 under RCW 36.70A.040 shall take action to review and, if needed, revise  
19 its policies and development regulations regarding critical areas and  
20 natural resource lands adopted according to this chapter to ensure  
21 these policies and regulations comply with the requirements of this  
22 chapter according to the time periods specified in subsection (4) of  
23 this section. Legislative action means the adoption of a resolution or  
24 ordinance following notice and a public hearing indicating at a  
25 minimum, a finding that a review and evaluation has occurred and  
26 identifying the revisions made, or that a revision was not needed and  
27 the reasons therefor.

28 (c) The review and evaluation required by this subsection may be  
29 combined with the review required by subsection (3) of this section.  
30 The review and evaluation required by this subsection shall include,  
31 but is not limited to, consideration of critical area ordinances and,  
32 if planning under RCW 36.70A.040, an analysis of the population  
33 allocated to a city or county from the most recent ten-year population  
34 forecast by the office of financial management.

35 (d) Any amendment of or revision to a comprehensive land use plan  
36 shall conform to this chapter. Any amendment of or revision to

1 development regulations shall be consistent with and implement the  
2 comprehensive plan.

3 (2)(a) Each county and city shall establish and broadly disseminate  
4 to the public a public participation program consistent with RCW  
5 36.70A.035 and 36.70A.140 that identifies procedures and schedules  
6 whereby updates, proposed amendments, or revisions of the comprehensive  
7 plan are considered by the governing body of the county or city no more  
8 frequently than once every year. "Updates" means to review and revise,  
9 if needed, according to subsection (1) of this section, and the time  
10 periods specified in subsection (4) of this section or in accordance  
11 with the provisions of subsections (5) and (8) of this section.  
12 Amendments may be considered more frequently than once per year under  
13 the following circumstances:

14 (i) The initial adoption of a subarea plan that does not modify the  
15 comprehensive plan policies and designations applicable to the subarea;

16 (ii) The adoption or amendment of a shoreline master program under  
17 the procedures set forth in chapter 90.58 RCW;

18 (iii) The amendment of the capital facilities element of a  
19 comprehensive plan that occurs concurrently with the adoption or  
20 amendment of a county or city budget;

21 (iv) Until June 30, 2006, the designation of recreational lands  
22 under RCW 36.70A.1701. A county amending its comprehensive plan  
23 pursuant to this subsection (2)(a)(iv) may not do so more frequently  
24 than every eighteen months; and

25 (v) The adoption of comprehensive plan amendments necessary to  
26 enact a planned action under RCW 43.21C.031(2), provided that  
27 amendments are considered in accordance with the public participation  
28 program established by the county or city under this subsection (2)(a)  
29 and all persons who have requested notice of a comprehensive plan  
30 update are given notice of the amendments and an opportunity to  
31 comment.

32 (b) Except as otherwise provided in (a) of this subsection, all  
33 proposals shall be considered by the governing body concurrently so the  
34 cumulative effect of the various proposals can be ascertained.  
35 However, after appropriate public participation a county or city may  
36 adopt amendments or revisions to its comprehensive plan that conform  
37 with this chapter whenever an emergency exists or to resolve an appeal

1 of a comprehensive plan filed with ((a)) the growth management hearings  
2 board or with the court.

3 (3)(a) Each county that designates urban growth areas under RCW  
4 36.70A.110 shall review, at least every ten years, its designated urban  
5 growth area or areas, and the densities permitted within both the  
6 incorporated and unincorporated portions of each urban growth area. In  
7 conjunction with this review by the county, each city located within an  
8 urban growth area shall review the densities permitted within its  
9 boundaries, and the extent to which the urban growth occurring within  
10 the county has located within each city and the unincorporated portions  
11 of the urban growth areas.

12 (b) The county comprehensive plan designating urban growth areas,  
13 and the densities permitted in the urban growth areas by the  
14 comprehensive plans of the county and each city located within the  
15 urban growth areas, shall be revised to accommodate the urban growth  
16 projected to occur in the county for the succeeding twenty-year period.  
17 The review required by this subsection may be combined with the review  
18 and evaluation required by RCW 36.70A.215.

19 (4) The department shall establish a schedule for counties and  
20 cities to take action to review and, if needed, revise their  
21 comprehensive plans and development regulations to ensure the plan and  
22 regulations comply with the requirements of this chapter. Except as  
23 provided in subsections (5) and (8) of this section, the schedule  
24 established by the department shall provide for the reviews and  
25 evaluations to be completed as follows:

26 (a) On or before December 1, 2004, and every seven years  
27 thereafter, for Clallam, Clark, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce,  
28 Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom counties and the cities within those  
29 counties;

30 (b) On or before December 1, 2005, and every seven years  
31 thereafter, for Cowlitz, Island, Lewis, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, and  
32 Skamania counties and the cities within those counties;

33 (c) On or before December 1, 2006, and every seven years  
34 thereafter, for Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Spokane, and  
35 Yakima counties and the cities within those counties; and

36 (d) On or before December 1, 2007, and every seven years  
37 thereafter, for Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield,

1 Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille,  
2 Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties and the cities  
3 within those counties.

4 (5)(a) Nothing in this section precludes a county or city from  
5 conducting the review and evaluation required by this section before  
6 the time limits established in subsection (4) of this section.  
7 Counties and cities may begin this process early and may be eligible  
8 for grants from the department, subject to available funding, if they  
9 elect to do so.

10 (b) A county that is subject to a schedule established by the  
11 department under subsection (4)(b) through (d) of this section and  
12 meets the following criteria may comply with the requirements of this  
13 section at any time within the thirty-six months following the date  
14 established in the applicable schedule: The county has a population of  
15 less than fifty thousand and has had its population increase by no more  
16 than seventeen percent in the ten years preceding the date established  
17 in the applicable schedule as of that date.

18 (c) A city that is subject to a schedule established by the  
19 department under subsection (4)(b) through (d) of this section and  
20 meets the following criteria may comply with the requirements of this  
21 section at any time within the thirty-six months following the date  
22 established in the applicable schedule: The city has a population of  
23 no more than five thousand and has had its population increase by the  
24 greater of either no more than one hundred persons or no more than  
25 seventeen percent in the ten years preceding the date established in  
26 the applicable schedule as of that date.

27 (d) State agencies are encouraged to provide technical assistance  
28 to the counties and cities in the review of critical area ordinances,  
29 comprehensive plans, and development regulations.

30 (6) A county or city subject to the time periods in subsection  
31 (4)(a) of this section that, pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the  
32 county or city establishing a schedule for periodic review of its  
33 comprehensive plan and development regulations, has conducted a review  
34 and evaluation of its comprehensive plan and development regulations  
35 and, on or after January 1, 2001, has taken action in response to that  
36 review and evaluation shall be deemed to have conducted the first  
37 review required by subsection (4)(a) of this section. Subsequent



1 review and evaluation by the county or city of its comprehensive plan  
2 and development regulations shall be conducted in accordance with the  
3 time periods established under subsection (4)(a) of this section.

4 (7) The requirements imposed on counties and cities under this  
5 section shall be considered "requirements of this chapter" under the  
6 terms of RCW 36.70A.040(1). Only those counties and cities: (a)  
7 Complying with the schedules in this section; (b) demonstrating  
8 substantial progress towards compliance with the schedules in this  
9 section for development regulations that protect critical areas; or (c)  
10 complying with the extension provisions of subsection (5)(b) or (c) of  
11 this section may receive grants, loans, pledges, or financial  
12 guarantees under chapter 43.155 or 70.146 RCW. A county or city that  
13 is fewer than twelve months out of compliance with the schedules in  
14 this section for development regulations that protect critical areas is  
15 making substantial progress towards compliance. Only those counties  
16 and cities in compliance with the schedules in this section may receive  
17 preference for grants or loans subject to the provisions of RCW  
18 43.17.250.

19 (8) Except as provided in subsection (5)(b) and (c) of this  
20 section:

21 (a) Counties and cities required to satisfy the requirements of  
22 this section according to the schedule established by subsection (4)(b)  
23 through (d) of this section may comply with the requirements of this  
24 section for development regulations that protect critical areas one  
25 year after the dates established in subsection (4)(b) through (d) of  
26 this section;

27 (b) Counties and cities complying with the requirements of this  
28 section one year after the dates established in subsection (4)(b)  
29 through (d) of this section for development regulations that protect  
30 critical areas shall be deemed in compliance with the requirements of  
31 this section; and

32 (c) This subsection (8) applies only to the counties and cities  
33 specified in subsection (4)(b) through (d) of this section, and only to  
34 the requirements of this section for development regulations that  
35 protect critical areas that must be satisfied by December 1, 2005,  
36 December 1, 2006, and December 1, 2007.

37 (9) Notwithstanding subsection (8) of this section and the  
38 substantial progress provisions of subsections (7) and (10) of this

1 section, only those counties and cities complying with the schedule in  
2 subsection (4) of this section, or the extension provisions of  
3 subsection (5)(b) or (c) of this section, may receive preferences for  
4 grants, loans, pledges, or financial guarantees under chapter 43.155 or  
5 70.146 RCW.

6 (10) Until December 1, 2005, and notwithstanding subsection (7) of  
7 this section, a county or city subject to the time periods in  
8 subsection (4)(a) of this section demonstrating substantial progress  
9 towards compliance with the schedules in this section for its  
10 comprehensive land use plan and development regulations may receive  
11 grants, loans, pledges, or financial guarantees under chapter 43.155 or  
12 70.146 RCW. A county or city that is fewer than twelve months out of  
13 compliance with the schedules in this section for its comprehensive  
14 land use plan and development regulations is deemed to be making  
15 substantial progress towards compliance.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.70A.172 and 1995 c 347 s 105 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) In designating and protecting critical areas under this  
19 chapter, counties and cities shall include the best available science  
20 in developing policies and development regulations to protect the  
21 functions and values of critical areas. In addition, counties and  
22 cities shall give special consideration to conservation or protection  
23 measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

24 (2) If it determines that advice from scientific or other experts  
25 is necessary or will be of substantial assistance in reaching its  
26 decision, ((a)) the growth management hearings board may retain  
27 scientific or other expert advice to assist in reviewing a petition  
28 under RCW 36.70A.290 that involves critical areas.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 36.70A.250 and 1994 c 249 s 29 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 ~~((1) There are hereby created three growth management hearings~~  
32 ~~boards for the state of Washington. The boards shall be established as~~  
33 ~~follows:~~

34 ~~(a) An Eastern Washington board with jurisdictional boundaries~~  
35 ~~including all counties that are required to or choose to plan under RCW~~  
36 ~~36.70A.040 and are located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains;~~

1 ~~(b) A Central Puget Sound board with jurisdictional boundaries~~  
2 ~~including King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties; and~~

3 ~~(c) A Western Washington board with jurisdictional boundaries~~  
4 ~~including all counties that are required or choose to plan under RCW~~  
5 ~~36.70A.040 and are located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains~~  
6 ~~and are not included in the Central Puget Sound board jurisdictional~~  
7 ~~boundaries. Skamania county, should it be required or choose to plan~~  
8 ~~under RCW 36.70A.040, may elect to be included within the~~  
9 ~~jurisdictional boundaries of either the Western or Eastern board.~~

10 ~~(2) Each board shall only hear matters pertaining to the cities and~~  
11 ~~counties located within its jurisdictional boundaries.)~~ (1) A growth  
12 management hearings board for the state of Washington is created. The  
13 board shall be comprised of seven members representing specified areas.  
14 The members shall hold seats for the represented areas as follows:

15 (a) Seat 1: Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, and Snohomish  
16 counties;

17 (b) Seat 2: King, Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap, and Mason counties;

18 (c) Seat 3: Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Lewis,  
19 Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, and Clark counties;

20 (d) Seat 4: Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Adams, and Grant counties;

21 (e) Seat 5: Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Klickitat, and Skamania  
22 counties;

23 (f) Seat 6: Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Whitman,  
24 and Asotin counties; and

25 (g) Seat 7: Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, and Spokane  
26 counties.

27 (2) Board members shall be appointed by the county commissioners  
28 within the jurisdictional boundary of the seat they represent. The  
29 county commissioners of the counties to be represented by the board  
30 member shall convene in a joint public meeting to select the board  
31 member. The appointment shall occur through a majority vote of the  
32 county commissioners. Each county individually must have the quorum  
33 required to pass an ordinance in the county in order for the  
34 appointment vote to be official. Proxy voting is not allowed.

35 (3) Three members of the growth management hearings board or the  
36 full board shall hear matters subject to board review, with one member  
37 being from the county where the matter in question occurred and one

1 member being from a county located on the same side of the state where  
2 the matter occurred as determined by the crest of the Cascade mountain  
3 range.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 36.70A.260 and 1994 c 249 s 30 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) ~~((Each))~~ The growth management hearings board shall consist of  
7 ~~((three))~~ seven members qualified by experience or training in matters  
8 pertaining to land use planning and ~~((residing within the~~  
9 ~~jurisdictional boundaries of the applicable board. At least one member~~  
10 ~~of each board must be admitted to practice law in this state and at~~  
11 ~~least one member must have been a city or county elected official.~~  
12 ~~Each board shall be appointed by the governor and not more than two~~  
13 ~~members at the time of appointment or during their term shall be~~  
14 ~~members of the same political party))~~ as appointed in RCW 36.70A.250.  
15 No more than two members at the time of appointment or during their  
16 term shall reside in the same county.

17 (2) Each member of a board shall be appointed for a term of six  
18 years and shall not serve more than two terms. A vacancy shall be  
19 filled ~~((by appointment by the governor for the unexpired portion of~~  
20 ~~the term in which the vacancy occurs. The terms of the first three~~  
21 ~~members of a board shall be staggered so that one member is appointed~~  
22 ~~to serve until July 1, 1994, one member until July 1, 1996, and one~~  
23 ~~member until July 1, 1998))~~ in accordance with RCW 36.70A.250(2).

24 **Sec. 6.** RCW 36.70A.270 and 1997 c 429 s 11 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 ~~((Each))~~ The growth management hearings board shall be governed by  
27 the following rules on conduct and procedure:

28 (1) Any board member may be removed for inefficiency, malfeasance,  
29 and misfeasance in office, under specific written charges filed by the  
30 governor. The governor shall transmit such written charges to the  
31 member accused and the chief justice of the supreme court. The chief  
32 justice shall thereupon designate a tribunal composed of three judges  
33 of the superior court to hear and adjudicate the charges. Removal of  
34 any member of ~~((a))~~ the board by the tribunal shall disqualify such  
35 member for reappointment.

1           (2) Each board member shall receive reimbursement for travel  
2 expenses incurred in the discharge of his or her duties in accordance  
3 with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. ~~((If it is determined that the  
4 review boards shall operate on a full-time basis,))~~ Each member shall  
5 receive an annual salary to be determined by the governor pursuant to  
6 RCW 43.03.040. ~~((If it is determined that a review board shall operate  
7 on a part-time basis, each member shall receive compensation pursuant  
8 to RCW 43.03.250, provided such amount shall not exceed the amount that  
9 would be set if they were a full-time board member.))~~ The principal  
10 office of ~~((each))~~ the board shall be located ~~((by the governor within  
11 the jurisdictional boundaries of each board. The boards shall operate  
12 on either a part-time or full-time basis, as determined by the  
13 governor))~~ in Olympia. Any satellite offices of the board should be  
14 located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the regions where the  
15 three growth management hearings boards, in existence before the  
16 effective date of this act, were located.

17           (3) Each board member shall not: (a) Be a candidate for or hold  
18 any other public office or trust; (b) engage in any occupation or  
19 business interfering with or inconsistent with his or her duty as a  
20 board member; and (c) for a period of one year after the termination of  
21 his or her board membership, act in a representative capacity before  
22 the board on any matter.

23           (4) A majority of ~~((each))~~ the board shall constitute a quorum for  
24 ~~((making orders or decisions,))~~ adopting rules necessary for the  
25 conduct of its powers and duties~~((,))~~ or transacting other official  
26 business, and may act even though one position of the board is vacant.  
27 ~~((One or more members may hold hearings and take testimony to be  
28 reported for action by the board when authorized by rule or order of  
29 the board.))~~ The board shall perform all the powers and duties  
30 specified in this chapter or as otherwise provided by law.

31           (5) ~~((The board may appoint one or more hearing examiners to assist  
32 the board in its hearing function, to make conclusions of law and  
33 findings of fact and, if requested by the board, to make  
34 recommendations to the board for decisions in cases before the board.  
35 Such hearing examiners must have demonstrated knowledge of land use  
36 planning and law. The boards shall specify in their joint rules of  
37 practice and procedure, as required by subsection (7) of this section,  
38 the procedure and criteria to be employed for designating hearing~~

1 ~~examiners as a presiding officer. Hearing examiners selected by a~~  
2 ~~board shall meet the requirements of subsection (3) of this section.~~  
3 ~~The findings and conclusions of the hearing examiner shall not become~~  
4 ~~final until they have been formally approved by the board. This~~  
5 ~~authorization to use hearing examiners does not waive the requirement~~  
6 ~~of RCW 36.70A.300 that final orders be issued within one hundred eighty~~  
7 ~~days of board receipt of a petition.~~

8 ~~(6) Each))~~ Three-member panels or the full board shall make  
9 findings of fact and prepare a written decision in each case decided by  
10 it, and such findings and decision shall be effective upon being signed  
11 by two or more members of the board and upon being filed at the board's  
12 principal office, and shall be open for public inspection at all  
13 reasonable times.

14 (7) All proceedings before the board(~~(, any of its members, or a~~  
15 ~~hearing examiner appointed by the board)) shall be conducted in~~  
16 accordance with such administrative rules of practice and procedure as  
17 the board(~~(s jointly))~~ prescribes. (~~All three))~~ The board(~~(s))~~ shall  
18 (~~(jointly))~~ meet to develop and adopt (~~(joint))~~ rules of practice and  
19 procedure, including rules regarding expeditious and summary  
20 disposition of appeals. The board(~~(s))~~ shall publish such rules and  
21 decisions (~~(they))~~ it renders and arrange for the reasonable  
22 distribution of the rules and decisions. Except as it conflicts with  
23 specific provisions of this chapter, the administrative procedure act,  
24 chapter 34.05 RCW, and specifically including the provisions of RCW  
25 34.05.455 governing ex parte communications, shall govern the practice  
26 and procedure of the board(~~(s))~~).

27 (8) A board member (~~(or hearing examiner))~~ is subject to  
28 disqualification under chapter 34.05 RCW. The (~~(joint))~~ rules of  
29 practice of the board(~~(s))~~ shall establish procedures by which a party  
30 to a hearing conducted before the board may file with the board a  
31 motion to disqualify, with supporting affidavit, against a board member  
32 (~~(or hearing examiner))~~ assigned to preside at the hearing.

33 (~~(9) The members of the boards shall meet jointly on at least an~~  
34 ~~annual basis with the objective of sharing information that promotes~~  
35 ~~the goals and purposes of this chapter.))~~

36 **Sec. 7.** RCW 36.70A.280 and 2008 c 289 s 5 are each amended to read  
37 as follows:

1 (1) ((A)) The growth management hearings board shall hear and  
2 determine only those petitions alleging either:

3 (a) That, except as provided otherwise by this subsection, a state  
4 agency, county, or city planning under this chapter is not in  
5 compliance with the requirements of this chapter, chapter 90.58 RCW as  
6 it relates to the adoption of shoreline master programs or amendments  
7 thereto, or chapter 43.21C RCW as it relates to plans, development  
8 regulations, or amendments, adopted under RCW 36.70A.040 or chapter  
9 90.58 RCW. Nothing in this subsection authorizes ((a)) the board to  
10 hear petitions alleging noncompliance with RCW 36.70A.5801; or

11 (b) That the twenty-year growth management planning population  
12 projections adopted by the office of financial management pursuant to  
13 RCW 43.62.035 should be adjusted.

14 (2) A petition may be filed only by: (a) The state, or a county or  
15 city that plans under this chapter; (b) ((a)) any person who ((has  
16 participated orally or in writing before)) owns property within the  
17 jurisdiction of the county or city ((regarding)) that is the subject of  
18 the matter on which a review is being requested and is impacted by the  
19 ordinance, regulations, or policy in question; (c) a person who is  
20 certified by the governor within sixty days of filing the request with  
21 the board; or (d) a person qualified pursuant to RCW 34.05.530.

22 (3) For purposes of this section "person" means any individual,  
23 partnership, corporation, association, state agency, governmental  
24 subdivision or unit thereof, or public or private organization or  
25 entity of any character.

26 (4) ((To establish participation standing under subsection (2)(b)  
27 of this section, a person must show that his or her participation  
28 before the county or city was reasonably related to the person's issue  
29 as presented to the board.

30 (5)) When considering a possible adjustment to a growth management  
31 planning population projection prepared by the office of financial  
32 management, ((a)) the board shall consider the implications of any such  
33 adjustment to the population forecast for the entire state.

34 The rationale for any adjustment that is adopted by ((a)) the board  
35 must be documented and filed with the office of financial management  
36 within ten working days after adoption.

37 If adjusted by ((a)) the board, a county growth management planning  
38 population projection shall only be used for the planning purposes set

1 forth in this chapter and shall be known as ((a)) the "board adjusted  
2 population projection." None of these changes shall affect the  
3 official state and county population forecasts prepared by the office  
4 of financial management, which shall continue to be used for state  
5 budget and planning purposes.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A RCW  
7 to read as follows, to be codified between RCW 36.70A.250 and  
8 36.70A.300:

9 A party may petition for a hearing or rehearing of a decision by  
10 all of the members of the growth management hearings board.

11 (1) The petition must begin with a statement that either: (a) The  
12 panel decision conflicts with a prior hearing board decision, appellate  
13 court decision, or Washington state supreme court decision, and  
14 consideration by the full board is necessary to secure and maintain  
15 uniformity in the board's decisions; or (b) the case involves one or  
16 more questions of exceptional importance, each of which must be  
17 concisely stated.

18 (2) A petition that a case be heard initially by the full board  
19 must be filed with the party's initial filing. A petition for a  
20 rehearing of the full board must be filed within ten days of the  
21 issuance of a final decision.

22 (3) The board must give all parties an opportunity to express their  
23 views as to whether a hearing by the full board is appropriate.

24 (4) Nothing in this section interferes with the right of a party to  
25 appeal a final decision to the superior court in accordance with RCW  
26 36.70A.300(5). If a party files a case in superior court on the issue  
27 requested for rehearing, the full board does not have jurisdiction to  
28 rehear the case.

29 **Sec. 9.** RCW 36.70A.290 and 1997 c 429 s 12 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) All requests for review to ((a)) the growth management hearings  
32 board shall be initiated by filing a petition that includes a detailed  
33 statement of issues presented for resolution by the board. The board  
34 shall render written decisions articulating the basis for its holdings.  
35 The board shall not issue advisory opinions on issues not presented to



1 the board in the statement of issues, as modified by any prehearing  
2 order.

3 (2) All petitions relating to whether or not an adopted  
4 comprehensive plan, development regulation, or permanent amendment  
5 thereto, is in compliance with the goals and requirements of this  
6 chapter or chapter 90.58 or 43.21C RCW must be filed within sixty days  
7 after publication by the legislative bodies of the county or city.

8 (a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, the date of  
9 publication for a city shall be the date the city publishes the  
10 ordinance, or summary of the ordinance, adopting the comprehensive plan  
11 or development regulations, or amendment thereto, as is required to be  
12 published.

13 (b) Promptly after adoption, a county shall publish a notice that  
14 it has adopted the comprehensive plan or development regulations, or  
15 amendment thereto.

16 Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, for purposes of this  
17 section the date of publication for a county shall be the date the  
18 county publishes the notice that it has adopted the comprehensive plan  
19 or development regulations, or amendment thereto.

20 (c) For local governments planning under RCW 36.70A.040, promptly  
21 after approval or disapproval of a local government's shoreline master  
22 program or amendment thereto by the department of ecology as provided  
23 in RCW 90.58.090, the local government shall publish a notice that the  
24 shoreline master program or amendment thereto has been approved or  
25 disapproved by the department of ecology. For purposes of this  
26 section, the date of publication for the adoption or amendment of a  
27 shoreline master program is the date the local government publishes  
28 notice that the shoreline master program or amendment thereto has been  
29 approved or disapproved by the department of ecology.

30 (3) Unless the board dismisses the petition as frivolous or finds  
31 that the person filing the petition lacks standing, or the parties have  
32 filed an agreement to have the case heard in superior court as provided  
33 in RCW 36.70A.295, the board shall, within ten days of receipt of the  
34 petition, set a time for hearing the matter.

35 (4) The board shall base its decision on the record developed by  
36 the city, county, or the state and supplemented with additional  
37 evidence if the board determines that such additional evidence would be

1 necessary or of substantial assistance to the board in reaching its  
2 decision.

3 (5) The board, shall consolidate, when appropriate, all petitions  
4 involving the review of the same comprehensive plan or the same  
5 development regulation or regulations.

6 **Sec. 10.** RCW 36.70A.295 and 1997 c 429 s 13 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The superior court may directly review a petition for review  
9 filed under RCW 36.70A.290 if all parties to the proceeding before the  
10 board have agreed to direct review in the superior court. The  
11 agreement of the parties shall be in writing and signed by all of the  
12 parties to the proceeding or their designated representatives. The  
13 agreement shall include the parties' agreement to proper venue as  
14 provided in RCW 36.70A.300(5). The parties shall file their agreement  
15 with the board within ten days after the date the petition is filed, or  
16 if multiple petitions have been filed and the board has consolidated  
17 the petitions pursuant to RCW 36.70A.300, within ten days after the  
18 board serves its order of consolidation.

19 (2) Within ten days of receiving the timely and complete agreement  
20 of the parties, the board shall file a certificate of agreement with  
21 the designated superior court and shall serve the parties with copies  
22 of the certificate. The superior court shall obtain exclusive  
23 jurisdiction over a petition when it receives the certificate of  
24 agreement. With the certificate of agreement the board shall also file  
25 the petition for review, any orders entered by the board, all other  
26 documents in the board's files regarding the action, and the written  
27 agreement of the parties.

28 (3) For purposes of a petition that is subject to direct review,  
29 the superior court's subject matter jurisdiction shall be equivalent to  
30 that of the board. Consistent with the requirements of the superior  
31 court civil rules, the superior court may consolidate a petition  
32 subject to direct review under this section with a separate action  
33 filed in the superior court.

34 (4)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) and (c) of this  
35 subsection, the provisions of RCW 36.70A.280 through 36.70A.330, which  
36 specify the nature and extent of board review, shall apply to the  
37 superior court's review.

1 (b) The superior court:

2 (i) Shall not have jurisdiction to directly review or modify an  
3 office of financial management population projection;

4 (ii) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 36.70A.300(2)(b), shall  
5 render its decision on the petition within one hundred eighty days of  
6 receiving the certification of agreement; and

7 (iii) Shall give a compliance hearing under RCW 36.70A.330(2) the  
8 highest priority of all civil matters before the court.

9 (c) An aggrieved party may secure appellate review of a final  
10 judgment of the superior court under this section by the supreme court  
11 or the court of appeals. The review shall be secured in the manner  
12 provided by law for review of superior court decisions in other civil  
13 cases.

14 (5) If, following a compliance hearing, the court finds that the  
15 state agency, county, or city is not in compliance with the court's  
16 prior order, the court may use its remedial and contempt powers to  
17 enforce compliance.

18 (6) The superior court shall transmit a copy of its decision and  
19 order on direct review to the board, the department, and the governor.  
20 If the court has determined that a county or city is not in compliance  
21 with the provisions of this chapter, the governor may impose sanctions  
22 against the county or city in the same manner as if ((a)) the board had  
23 recommended the imposition of sanctions as provided in RCW 36.70A.330.

24 (7) After the court has assumed jurisdiction over a petition for  
25 review under this section, the superior court civil rules shall govern  
26 a request for intervention and all other procedural matters not  
27 specifically provided for in this section.

28 **Sec. 11.** RCW 36.70A.302 and 1997 c 429 s 16 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) ((A)) The board may determine that part or all of a  
31 comprehensive plan or development regulations are invalid if the board:

32 (a) Makes a finding of noncompliance and issues an order of remand  
33 under RCW 36.70A.300;

34 (b) Includes in the final order a determination, supported by  
35 findings of fact and conclusions of law, that the continued validity of  
36 part or parts of the plan or regulation would substantially interfere  
37 with the fulfillment of the goals of this chapter; and

1 (c) Specifies in the final order the particular part or parts of  
2 the plan or regulation that are determined to be invalid, and the  
3 reasons for their invalidity.

4 (2) A determination of invalidity is prospective in effect and does  
5 not extinguish rights that vested under state or local law before  
6 receipt of the board's order by the city or county. The determination  
7 of invalidity does not apply to a completed development permit  
8 application for a project that vested under state or local law before  
9 receipt of the board's order by the county or city or to related  
10 construction permits for that project.

11 (3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this  
12 section and (b) of this subsection, a development permit application  
13 not vested under state or local law before receipt of the board's order  
14 by the county or city vests to the local ordinance or resolution that  
15 is determined by the board not to substantially interfere with the  
16 fulfillment of the goals of this chapter.

17 (b) Even though the application is not vested under state or local  
18 law before receipt by the county or city of the board's order, a  
19 determination of invalidity does not apply to a development permit  
20 application for:

21 (i) A permit for construction by any owner, lessee, or contract  
22 purchaser of a single-family residence for his or her own use or for  
23 the use of his or her family on a lot existing before receipt by the  
24 county or city of the board's order, except as otherwise specifically  
25 provided in the board's order to protect the public health and safety;

26 (ii) A building permit and related construction permits for  
27 remodeling, tenant improvements, or expansion of an existing structure  
28 on a lot existing before receipt of the board's order by the county or  
29 city; and

30 (iii) A boundary line adjustment or a division of land that does  
31 not increase the number of buildable lots existing before receipt of  
32 the board's order by the county or city.

33 (4) If the ordinance that adopts a plan or development regulation  
34 under this chapter includes a savings clause intended to revive prior  
35 policies or regulations in the event the new plan or regulations are  
36 determined to be invalid, the board shall determine under subsection  
37 (1) of this section whether the prior policies or regulations are valid  
38 during the period of remand.

1 (5) A county or city subject to a determination of invalidity may  
2 adopt interim controls and other measures to be in effect until it  
3 adopts a comprehensive plan and development regulations that comply  
4 with the requirements of this chapter. A development permit  
5 application may vest under an interim control or measure upon  
6 determination by the board that the interim controls and other measures  
7 do not substantially interfere with the fulfillment of the goals of  
8 this chapter.

9 (6) A county or city subject to a determination of invalidity may  
10 file a motion requesting that the board clarify, modify, or rescind the  
11 order. The board shall expeditiously schedule a hearing on the motion.  
12 At the hearing on the motion, the parties may present information to  
13 the board to clarify the part or parts of the comprehensive plan or  
14 development regulations to which the final order applies. The board  
15 shall issue any supplemental order based on the information provided at  
16 the hearing not later than thirty days after the date of the hearing.

17 (7)(a) If a determination of invalidity has been made and the  
18 county or city has enacted an ordinance or resolution amending the  
19 invalidated part or parts of the plan or regulation or establishing  
20 interim controls on development affected by the order of invalidity,  
21 after a compliance hearing, the board shall modify or rescind the  
22 determination of invalidity if it determines under the standard in  
23 subsection (1) of this section that the plan or regulation, as amended  
24 or made subject to such interim controls, will no longer substantially  
25 interfere with the fulfillment of the goals of this chapter.

26 (b) If the board determines that part or parts of the plan or  
27 regulation are no longer invalid as provided in this subsection, but  
28 does not find that the plan or regulation is in compliance with all of  
29 the requirements of this chapter, the board, in its order, may require  
30 periodic reports to the board on the progress the jurisdiction is  
31 making towards compliance.

32 **Sec. 12.** RCW 36.70A.310 and 1994 c 249 s 32 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 A request for review by the state to ((a)) the growth management  
35 hearings board may be made only by the governor, or with the governor's  
36 consent the head of an agency, or by the commissioner of public lands  
37 as relating to state trust lands, for the review of whether: (1) A

1 county or city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040  
2 has failed to adopt a comprehensive plan or development regulations, or  
3 county-wide planning policies within the time limits established by  
4 this chapter; or (2) a county or city that is required or chooses to  
5 plan under this chapter has adopted a comprehensive plan, development  
6 regulations, or county-wide planning policies, that are not in  
7 compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

8 **Sec. 13.** RCW 36.70A.3201 and 1997 c 429 s 2 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 ~~((In amending RCW 36.70A.320(3) by section 20(3), chapter 429, Laws~~  
11 ~~of 1997,))~~ The legislature intends that the board(~~s apply~~) applies a  
12 more deferential standard of review to actions of counties and cities  
13 than the preponderance of the evidence standard provided for under  
14 existing law. In recognition of the broad range of discretion that may  
15 be exercised by counties and cities consistent with the requirements of  
16 this chapter, the legislature intends for the board(~~s~~) to grant  
17 deference to counties and cities in how they plan for growth,  
18 consistent with the requirements and goals of this chapter. Local  
19 comprehensive plans and development regulations require counties and  
20 cities to balance priorities and options for action in full  
21 consideration of local circumstances. The legislature finds that while  
22 this chapter requires local planning to take place within a framework  
23 of state goals and requirements, the ultimate burden and responsibility  
24 for planning, harmonizing the planning goals of this chapter, and  
25 implementing a county's or city's future rests with that community.

26 **Sec. 14.** RCW 36.70A.345 and 1994 c 249 s 33 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 The governor may impose a sanction or sanctions specified under RCW  
29 36.70A.340 on: (1) A county or city that fails to designate critical  
30 areas, agricultural lands, forest lands, or mineral resource lands  
31 under RCW 36.70A.170 by the date such action was required to have been  
32 taken; (2) a county or city that fails to adopt development regulations  
33 under RCW 36.70A.060 protecting critical areas or conserving  
34 agricultural lands, forest lands, or mineral resource lands by the date  
35 such action was required to have been taken; (3) a county that fails to  
36 designate urban growth areas under RCW 36.70A.110 by the date such

1 action was required to have been taken; and (4) a county or city that  
2 fails to adopt its comprehensive plan or development regulations when  
3 such actions are required to be taken.

4 Imposition of a sanction or sanctions under this section shall be  
5 preceded by written findings by the governor, that either the county or  
6 city is not proceeding in good faith to meet the requirements of the  
7 act; or that the county or city has unreasonably delayed taking the  
8 required action. The governor shall consult with and communicate his  
9 or her findings to the ((appropriate)) growth management hearings board  
10 prior to imposing the sanction or sanctions. For those counties or  
11 cities that are not required to plan or have not opted in, the governor  
12 in imposing sanctions shall consider the size of the jurisdiction  
13 relative to the requirements of this chapter and the degree of  
14 technical and financial assistance provided.

15 **Sec. 15.** RCW 90.58.190 and 2003 c 321 s 4 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 (1) The appeal of the department's decision to adopt a master  
18 program or amendment pursuant to RCW 90.58.070(2) or 90.58.090(5) is  
19 governed by RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598.

20 (2)(a) The department's decision to approve, reject, or modify a  
21 proposed master program or amendment adopted by a local government  
22 planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall be appealed to the growth  
23 management hearings board ((with jurisdiction over the local  
24 government)). The appeal shall be initiated by filing a petition as  
25 provided in RCW 36.70A.250 through 36.70A.320.

26 (b) If the appeal to the growth management hearings board concerns  
27 shorelines, the growth management hearings board shall review the  
28 proposed master program or amendment solely for compliance with the  
29 requirements of this chapter, the policy of RCW 90.58.020 and the  
30 applicable guidelines, the internal consistency provisions of RCW  
31 36.70A.070, 36.70A.040(4), 35.63.125, and 35A.63.105, and chapter  
32 43.21C RCW as it relates to the adoption of master programs and  
33 amendments under chapter 90.58 RCW.

34 (c) If the appeal to the growth management hearings board concerns  
35 a shoreline of statewide significance, the board shall uphold the  
36 decision by the department unless the board, by clear and convincing

1 evidence, determines that the decision of the department is  
2 inconsistent with the policy of RCW 90.58.020 and the applicable  
3 guidelines.

4 (d) The appellant has the burden of proof in all appeals to the  
5 growth management hearings board under this subsection.

6 (e) Any party aggrieved by a final decision of ((a)) the growth  
7 management hearings board under this subsection may appeal the decision  
8 to superior court as provided in RCW 36.70A.300.

9 (3)(a) The department's decision to approve, reject, or modify a  
10 proposed master program or master program amendment by a local  
11 government not planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall be appealed to the  
12 shorelines hearings board by filing a petition within thirty days of  
13 the date of the department's written notice to the local government of  
14 the department's decision to approve, reject, or modify a proposed  
15 master program or master program amendment as provided in RCW  
16 90.58.090(2).

17 (b) In an appeal relating to shorelines, the shorelines hearings  
18 board shall review the proposed master program or master program  
19 amendment and, after full consideration of the presentations of the  
20 local government and the department, shall determine the validity of  
21 the local government's master program or amendment in light of the  
22 policy of RCW 90.58.020 and the applicable guidelines.

23 (c) In an appeal relating to shorelines of statewide significance,  
24 the shorelines hearings board shall uphold the decision by the  
25 department unless the board determines, by clear and convincing  
26 evidence that the decision of the department is inconsistent with the  
27 policy of RCW 90.58.020 and the applicable guidelines.

28 (d) Review by the shorelines hearings board shall be considered an  
29 adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative  
30 Procedure Act. The aggrieved local government shall have the burden of  
31 proof in all such reviews.

32 (e) Whenever possible, the review by the shorelines hearings board  
33 shall be heard within the county where the land subject to the proposed  
34 master program or master program amendment is primarily located. The  
35 department and any local government aggrieved by a final decision of  
36 the hearings board may appeal the decision to superior court as  
37 provided in chapter 34.05 RCW.



1 (4) A master program amendment shall become effective after the  
2 approval of the department or after the decision of the shorelines  
3 hearings board to uphold the master program or master program  
4 amendment, provided that the board may remand the master program or  
5 master program adjustment to the local government or the department for  
6 modification prior to the final adoption of the master program or  
7 master program amendment.

8 **Sec. 16.** RCW 34.05.518 and 2003 c 393 s 16 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The final decision of an administrative agency in an  
11 adjudicative proceeding under this chapter may, except as otherwise  
12 provided in chapter 43.21L RCW, be directly reviewed by the court of  
13 appeals either (a) upon certification by the superior court pursuant to  
14 this section or (b) if the final decision is from an environmental  
15 board as defined in subsection (3) of this section, upon acceptance by  
16 the court of appeals after a certificate of appealability has been  
17 filed by the environmental board that rendered the final decision.

18 (2) For direct review upon certification by the superior court, an  
19 application for direct review must be filed with the superior court  
20 within thirty days of the filing of the petition for review in superior  
21 court. The superior court may certify a case for direct review only if  
22 the judicial review is limited to the record of the agency proceeding  
23 and the court finds that:

24 (a) Fundamental and urgent issues affecting the future  
25 administrative process or the public interest are involved which  
26 require a prompt determination;

27 (b) Delay in obtaining a final and prompt determination of such  
28 issues would be detrimental to any party or the public interest;

29 (c) An appeal to the court of appeals would be likely regardless of  
30 the determination in superior court; and

31 (d) The appellate court's determination in the proceeding would  
32 have significant precedential value.

33 Procedures for certification shall be established by court rule.

34 (3)(a) For the purposes of direct review of final decisions of  
35 environmental boards, environmental boards include those boards  
36 identified in RCW 43.21B.005 and the growth management hearings  
37 board(~~s~~) as identified in RCW 36.70A.250.

1 (b) An environmental board may issue a certificate of appealability  
2 if it finds that delay in obtaining a final and prompt determination of  
3 the issues would be detrimental to any party or the public interest and  
4 either:

5 (i) Fundamental and urgent statewide or regional issues are raised;  
6 or

7 (ii) The proceeding is likely to have significant precedential  
8 value.

9 (4) The environmental board shall state in the certificate of  
10 appealability which criteria it applied, explain how that criteria was  
11 met, and file with the certificate a copy of the final decision.

12 (5) For an appellate court to accept direct review of a final  
13 decision of an environmental board, it shall consider the same criteria  
14 outlined in subsection (3) of this section, except as otherwise  
15 provided in chapter 43.21L RCW.

16 (6) The procedures for direct review of final decisions of  
17 environmental boards include:

18 (a) Within thirty days after filing the petition for review with  
19 the superior court, a party may file an application for direct review  
20 with the superior court and serve the appropriate environmental board  
21 and all parties of record. The application shall request the  
22 environmental board to file a certificate of appealability.

23 (b) If an issue on review is the jurisdiction of the environmental  
24 board, the board may file an application for direct review on that  
25 issue.

26 (c) The environmental board shall have thirty days to grant or deny  
27 the request for a certificate of appealability and its decision shall  
28 be filed with the superior court and served on all parties of record.

29 (d) If a certificate of appealability is issued, the parties shall  
30 have fifteen days from the date of service to file a notice of  
31 discretionary review in the superior court, and the notice shall  
32 include a copy of the certificate of appealability and a copy of the  
33 final decision.

34 (e) If the appellate court accepts review, the certificate of  
35 appealability shall be transmitted to the court of appeals as part of  
36 the certified record.

37 (f) If a certificate of appealability is denied, review shall be by

1 the superior court. The superior court's decision may be appealed to  
2 the court of appeals.

3 **Sec. 17.** RCW 34.12.020 and 2002 c 354 s 226 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
6 this section apply throughout this chapter.

7 (1) "Office" means the office of administrative hearings.

8 (2) "Administrative law judge" means any person appointed by the  
9 chief administrative law judge to conduct or preside over hearings as  
10 provided in this chapter.

11 (3) "Hearing" means an adjudicative proceeding within the meaning  
12 of RCW 34.05.010(1) conducted by a state agency under RCW 34.05.413  
13 through 34.05.476.

14 (4) "State agency" means any state board, commission, department,  
15 or officer authorized by law to make rules or to conduct adjudicative  
16 proceedings, except those in the legislative or judicial branches, the  
17 growth management hearings board(~~s~~), the utilities and transportation  
18 commission, the pollution control hearings board, the shorelines  
19 hearings board, the forest practices appeals board, the environmental  
20 hearings office, the board of industrial insurance appeals, the  
21 Washington personnel resources board, the public employment relations  
22 commission, and the board of tax appeals.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** (1) The three growth management hearings  
24 boards are abolished and their powers, duties, and functions are  
25 transferred to the growth management hearings board.

26 (2) All reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers,  
27 or written material in the possession of the three growth management  
28 hearings boards must be delivered to the custody of the growth  
29 management hearings board. All office furnishings, office equipment,  
30 motor vehicles, and other tangible property in the possession of the  
31 three growth management hearings boards must be made available to the  
32 growth management hearings board.

33 (3) All funds, credits, or other assets held by the three growth  
34 management hearings boards must, on the effective date of this section,  
35 be transferred to the growth management hearings board. Any  
36 appropriations made to the three growth management hearings boards

1 must, on the effective date of this section, be transferred and  
2 credited to the growth management hearings board. If any question  
3 arises as to the transfer of any personnel, funds, books, documents,  
4 records, papers, files, equipment, or other tangible property used or  
5 held in the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties  
6 and functions transferred, the director of financial management shall  
7 make a determination as to the proper allocation and certify the same  
8 to the state agencies concerned.

9 (4) All employees of the three growth management hearings boards  
10 are transferred to the growth management hearings board. All employees  
11 classified under chapter 41.06 RCW, the state civil service law, are  
12 assigned to the growth management hearings board to perform their usual  
13 duties upon the same terms as formerly, without any loss of rights,  
14 subject to any action that may be appropriate thereafter in accordance  
15 with the laws and rules governing state civil service.

16 (5) This section may not be construed to alter any existing  
17 collective bargaining unit or the provisions of any existing collective  
18 bargaining agreement until the agreement has expired or until the  
19 bargaining unit has been modified by action of the public employment  
20 relations commission as provided by law.

21 (6) All rules and pending business before the three growth  
22 management hearings boards must be continued and acted upon by the  
23 growth management hearings board. All existing contracts and  
24 obligations remain in full force and must be performed by the growth  
25 management hearings board.

26 (7) The transfer of the powers, duties, functions, and personnel of  
27 the three growth management hearings boards to the growth management  
28 hearings board does not affect the validity of any act performed before  
29 the effective date of this section.

30 (8) All cases decided and all orders previously issued by the three  
31 growth management hearings boards remain in full force and effect and  
32 are not affected by this act.

--- END ---