
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1404

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Wylie, Moeller, and Tarleton)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a bistate work group for certain
2 transportation projects; adding a new section to chapter 47.28 RCW;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The development of a bistate
6 megaproject takes years of hard work and difficult decisions. Once a
7 megaproject has reached the stage in its development when the federal
8 government has issued a record of decision, the megaproject must move
9 forward. To allow otherwise is to waste tens of millions of dollars
10 of taxpayer money, destroy bistate relationships and trust, and stall
11 economic growth and productivity in the entire region.

12 (2) The legislature finds that, prior to creating and
13 implementing a bistate megaproject work group, it would be beneficial
14 to consult with well-established institutional resources, such as the
15 Pacific Northwest economic region and resources of the national
16 conference of state legislatures, as appropriate.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.28
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) As used in this section, "bistate megaproject" means a
20 highway construction project valued at five hundred million dollars

1 or more that extends across the border between Washington and another
2 state.

3 (2) The department must notify the transportation committees of
4 the legislature when it initiates work with another state to prepare
5 an environmental impact statement that complies with the national
6 environmental policy act on a bistate megaproject.

7 (3) Prior to establishing a bistate megaproject work group, the
8 legislature must consult with the Pacific Northwest economic region,
9 as established in RCW 43.147.010, to explore examples of bistate,
10 multistate, or state-provincial work groups within the Pacific
11 Northwest in order to understand the most effective strategies to (a)
12 organize work groups, (b) determine work group leadership structures,
13 (c) identify and appoint a work group leader who is accountable to
14 the sponsoring legislative bodies, (d) define work group goals and
15 scope of responsibility, and (e) select work group participants. Any
16 recommendations must be presented to the legislature for
17 consideration.

18 (4) In conjunction with developing the environmental impact
19 statement with the other state, the department must establish a
20 bistate megaproject work group. The purpose of the work group is to
21 assist the department in the preparation of the environmental impact
22 statement and to facilitate communication between the legislative
23 bodies and other key stakeholders of the respective states. The
24 bistate megaproject work group must serve as an advisory body that
25 will support the department by providing continuity in the
26 development of the megaproject, beginning with crafting the
27 environmental impact statement all the way through the final
28 construction of the megaproject. The bistate megaproject work group
29 must, at a minimum, contain members of the legislature of both
30 states, representatives of the executive branches of both states, and
31 other appropriate public and private stakeholders as determined by
32 the department. The department must provide administrative and staff
33 support to the work group as necessary.

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