
HOUSE BILL 2594

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris, Hudgins, and Wylie

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on Technology & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the feasibility of a statewide
2 infrastructure authority; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
6 develop a strategy to make long-term investments in infrastructure
7 including broadband, high-speed rail, and long haul air cargo
8 facilities across the state. The legislature intends to focus these
9 investments on infrastructure that will affect multiple
10 jurisdictions.

11 To drive this process, the legislature intends to establish a
12 joint select committee to conduct a feasibility study to determine
13 the best governing structure, dedicated funding source, initial list
14 of performance-based projects, and recommendations for public-private
15 partnerships to achieve the infrastructure goals of the legislature.

16 Establishing a governing structure, an infrastructure authority,
17 would allow for the leveraging of existing funding mechanisms and
18 create opportunities for coordination in statewide infrastructure,
19 while driving economic competitiveness on both a state and global
20 level.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A joint select committee on
2 infrastructure is established, with members as provided in this
3 subsection.

4 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from
5 each of the largest caucuses of the senate.

6 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
7 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
8 representatives.

9 (iii) At least two members from each caucus must be a member of
10 the joint transportation committee.

11 (iv) At least two members from each caucus must be a member of
12 the house/senate standing committees on transportation and economic
13 development.

14 (b) The committee shall choose its cochairs from among its
15 membership.

16 (2) The committee must complete a study to:

17 (a) Identify integrated infrastructure needs across the state,
18 including fiber broadband, high-speed rail, and long haul air cargo;

19 (b) Assess potential organizational models for the new
20 infrastructure authority;

21 (c) Explore alternative organizational and funding models that
22 may have the capacity to facilitate meeting identified infrastructure
23 development needs of the state;

24 (d) Evaluate the ability of the identified organizational models
25 to engage in strategic long-term economic development investments;

26 (e) Identify opportunities to leverage new and existing sources
27 of funding that may be available for infrastructure development,
28 including public-private partnerships;

29 (f) Consider any state and federal legal aspects of
30 organizational and funding models identified pursuant to this
31 section, including consideration of how to structure the role of the
32 state or any subdivision of the state in a manner that is consistent
33 with the Constitution of the state of Washington;

34 (g) Describe any legislation that may be necessary to implement
35 the infrastructure authority and other recommendations; and

36 (h) Identify an initial list of potential performance-based
37 infrastructure projects.

38 (3) Staff support for the committee must be provided by senate
39 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
40 research.

1 (4) Legislative members of the committee are reimbursed for
2 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
3 members are not entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses if they
4 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
5 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
6 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

7 (5) Expenses of the committee must be paid jointly by the senate
8 and house of representatives. Committee expenditures are subject to
9 approval by the senate facilities and operations committee and house
10 of representatives executive rules committee, or their successor.

11 (6) The committee may contract with additional persons who have
12 specific technical expertise if the expertise is necessary to carry
13 out the mandates of the study. The committee may enter into such
14 contract only if appropriation is provided specifically for this
15 purpose.

16 (7) The committee, where appropriate, may consult with
17 individuals from the public and private sector or ask individuals to
18 establish an advisory committee. Members of such an advisory
19 committee are not entitled to expense reimbursement.

20 (8) The committee must report its findings and recommendations to
21 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.

22 (9) This section expires January 1, 2020.

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