CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1086

Chapter 289, Laws of 2017

65th Legislature
2017 Regular Session

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS--TWO YEAR COMPLETION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/23/2017

Passed by the House April 13, 2017
  Yeas 95 Nays 1

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2017
  Yeas 44 Nays 5

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Approved May 16, 2017 10:02 AM

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1086** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 16, 2017

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State
State of Washington

State of Washington   65th Legislature   2017 Regular Session

By House Environment (originally sponsored by Representatives Blake, J. Walsh, Springer, Wilcox, and Hargrove)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/17.

1   AN ACT Relating to promoting the completion of environmental
2 impact statements within two years; adding a new section to chapter
3 43.21C RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the analysis of
6 environmental impacts required under the state environmental policy
7 act adds value to government decision-making processes in Washington
8 state and helps minimize the potential environmental harm coming from
9 those government decisions. However, the legislature also recognizes
10 that excessive delays in the environmental impact analysis process
11 adds uncertainty and burdensome costs to those seeking to do business
12 in the state of Washington. Therefore, it is the intent of the
13 legislature to promote timely completion of state environmental
14 policy act processes. In doing so, the legislature intends to restore
15 balance between the need to carefully consider environmental impacts
16 and the need to maintain the economic competitiveness of state
17 businesses.

18   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C
19 RCW to read as follows:

1   (1) A lead agency shall aspire to prepare a final environmental
2 impact statement required by RCW 43.21C.030(2) in as expeditious a
3 manner as possible while not compromising the integrity of the
4 analysis.
5   (a) For even the most complex government decisions associated
6 with a broad scope of possible environmental impacts, a lead agency
7 shall aspire to prepare a final environmental impact statement
8 required by RCW 43.21C.030(2) within twenty-four months of a
9 threshold determination of a probable significant, adverse
10 environmental impact.
11   (b) Wherever possible, a lead agency shall aspire to far outpace
12 the twenty-four month time limit established in this section for more
13 commonplace government decisions associated with narrower and more
14 easily identifiable environmental impacts.
15   (2) Beginning December 31, 2018, and every two years thereafter,
16 the department of ecology must submit a report on the environmental
17 impact statements produced by state agencies and local governments to
18 the appropriate committees of the legislature. The report must
19 include data on the average time, and document the range of time, it
20 took to complete environmental impact statements within the previous
21 two years.
22   (3) Nothing in this section creates any civil liability for a
23 lead agency or creates a new cause of action against a lead agency.

        Passed by the House April 13, 2017.
        Passed by the Senate April 11, 2017.
        Approved by the Governor May 16, 2017.
        Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 2017.

                        --- END ---