
SENATE BILL 5572

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Vognild, Prince, Hargrove, Barr, McAuliffe, Haugen, Snyder, Pelz, Loveland, Sheldon, Moore, Erwin, Fraser, M. Rasmussen and Wojahn

Read first time 02/03/93. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the identification of environmental costs for
2 transportation projects; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Recognizing the importance of maintaining
5 the quality of life in Washington state, the citizens of this state
6 demand protection and preservation of our scarce natural resources.
7 Citizens also demand an efficient and effective transportation system.
8 The departments of transportation, ecology, fisheries, and wildlife and
9 the Puget Sound water quality authority have worked jointly to develop
10 cooperative approaches for mitigating environmental impacts resulting
11 from transportation projects. Nevertheless, many transportation
12 projects are costing more than was budgeted due to unanticipated and
13 extensive environmental considerations. It is the intent of the
14 legislature to find a process for accessing, budgeting, and accounting
15 for environmental costs related to significant transportation projects
16 in order to determine whether the environmental costs exceed the
17 transportation benefits of a project.

18 Therefore, the department of transportation shall undertake a pilot
19 program in at least one transportation district that will serve as a

1 case study for the entire department. The department shall identify
2 and cost out the discrete environmental elements of a representative
3 sampling of transportation projects. The environmental elements should
4 include, but not necessarily be limited to, wetlands, storm water,
5 hazardous waste, noise, fish, and wildlife. The department shall also
6 consider an assessment of the cost impacts resulting from delays
7 associated with permitting requirements.

8 It is the intent of the legislature that the environmental cost
9 estimates be developed during a detailed scoping process that will
10 include preliminary engineering and design. After the detailed scoping
11 process and design report is complete, the department shall submit
12 project-specific recommendations and cost estimates to the
13 transportation commission before approval is granted for the
14 construction phase of the projects.

15 Based upon the findings of the pilot program the transportation
16 commission shall recommend policies to the legislative transportation
17 committee regarding: (1) The current practice of appropriating design
18 and construction dollars simultaneously; (2) identification of
19 reasonable thresholds for environmental costs; (3) budget and
20 accounting modifications that may be warranted in order to accurately
21 capture environmental costs associated with transportation projects;
22 and (4) modification to the priority array statutes, chapter 47.05 RCW.

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