
HOUSE BILL 1204

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives K. Schmidt, Fisher, Romero, Mitchell, G. Chandler, Murray, Linville and Wood

Read first time 01/19/1999. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordination of environmental restoration and
2 land acquisition; adding new sections to chapter 43.21C RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The coordination of environmental
6 restoration priorities and mitigation responsibilities is intended to
7 improve the ecological benefits gained from state expenditures, provide
8 greater emphasis on shared natural resource management, increase
9 leveraging opportunities for cost-share projects, and increase
10 mitigation credit opportunities. Mitigation credits include units of
11 compensation for mitigation activities that may be applied to or
12 replace other environmental functions or mitigation requirements.
13 Mitigation credits earned from these activities are not intended to
14 reduce mitigation obligations, but to reduce the cost of meeting those
15 obligations and to provide greater ecological benefits.

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

1 (1) The interagency commission on outdoor recreation, the
2 conservation commission, the department of transportation, the
3 department of community, trade, and economic development, the
4 department of fish and wildlife, the department of natural resources,
5 the parks and recreation commission, the department of ecology, and any
6 other state agencies receiving appropriations from the capital budget
7 or the transportation budget for land acquisition, environmental
8 restoration, or environmental mitigation activities shall, to the
9 extent feasible, coordinate those acquisitions and activities.

10 (2) When cost-effective and ecologically beneficial, the
11 acquisition and development of environmental mitigation sites,
12 including, but not limited to, wetland banks and advance mitigation,
13 shall be coordinated with priority environmental restoration and
14 enhancement activities. The coordination of environmental restoration
15 and mitigation activities shall also take into consideration the
16 acquisitions and activities of local watershed groups.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 State agencies affected by section 2 of this act shall create a
20 work group to develop implementation procedures for identifying and
21 coordinating the activities set out under section 2 of this act.
22 Development of these procedures shall include consideration of the
23 following activities:

24 (1) Each agency or work group shall review and summarize its
25 funding mechanisms for the distribution of funds appropriated to the
26 agency in the capital budget or transportation budget. The summary
27 shall include a concise description of application procedures,
28 eligibility criteria, deadlines for application, and timelines for
29 distribution of funds. Agencies shall provide a comprehensive listing
30 of proposed and funded restoration projects.

31 State agencies shall apply incentives to grant and loan
32 applications based on demonstrated coordination of design,
33 construction, and funding of watershed improvement projects.

34 (2) Each agency or work group shall review and summarize its
35 planning process used to determine both short-term and long-term
36 project development. The summary shall include a concise description
37 of the planning process. Agencies shall provide a comprehensive
38 listing of proposed and funded construction projects.

1 (3) The work group shall create a comprehensive data base to enable
2 coordination of funds appropriated in the capital budget or
3 transportation budget between agencies. The data base must enable the
4 use of geographic information systems to facilitate coordination of
5 funded restoration sites and potential mitigation needs associated with
6 construction projects. The work group shall make recommendations for
7 coordinating grant application deadlines and funding cycles. The work
8 group shall develop procedures for evaluating data to identify and
9 implement opportunities for coordination.

10 (4) The work group shall create mechanisms for dissemination of
11 capital project information among the agencies. This information will
12 allow for the systematic coordination of project development among
13 agencies.

14 (5) Each agency shall track project costs, benefits, and
15 improvements to project administration.

16 (6) The office of financial management shall report to the
17 legislature on the number of coordinated projects, costs, benefits, and
18 process improvements by December 31, 2000.

19 (7) The work group shall evaluate opportunities for providing
20 incentives and outreach activities to facilitate coordination with
21 other entities that provide either loans or grants, or both, for
22 transportation corridor improvements. These entities include, but are
23 not limited to, the Washington state county road administration board,
24 the transportation improvement board, the United States department of
25 agriculture, the rural development council, the public works board, and
26 the community economic revitalization board.

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