

---

HOUSE BILL 2848

---

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Prentice, Cooper, Wood, R. Fisher, Paris, Orr, Heavey, R. Johnson, Nelson, Rust, Day, Fraser, Leonard, Basich, Jacobsen and J. Kohl

Read first time 01/29/92. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to environmental considerations of transportation  
2 planning; and adding a new section to chapter 47.05 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.05 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 Recognizing the importance of maintaining the quality of life in  
7 Washington state, the citizens of this state demand protection and  
8 preservation of our scarce natural resources. Citizens also demand an  
9 efficient and effective transportation system. The departments of  
10 transportation and ecology have worked jointly to develop a reasonable  
11 approach to assessing environmental impacts of significant  
12 transportation projects. Nevertheless, many transportation projects  
13 are costing more than was budgeted, due to unanticipated and extensive  
14 environmental considerations. It is the intent of the legislature to

1 find a process for assessing, budgeting, and accounting for  
2 environmental costs related to significant transportation projects.

3 Therefore, the department of transportation shall undertake a pilot  
4 program in at least one transportation district that will serve as a  
5 case study for the entire department. The purpose of the pilot program  
6 is to define those discrete environmental elements of all significant  
7 transportation projects within the selected pilot transportation  
8 district that can be isolated and priced. The department of  
9 transportation shall at a minimum include estimates for wetlands, storm  
10 water, air, hazardous waste, and fish barriers.

11 It is the intent of the legislature that the environmental cost  
12 estimates be developed during a detailed scoping process that will  
13 include preliminary engineering and design. The public shall have an  
14 opportunity to review all significant transportation projects within  
15 the designated pilot district, through the public hearing process  
16 during the scoping process. After the detailed scoping process,  
17 project-specific recommendations and cost estimates shall be submitted  
18 by January 1, 1994, to the office of financial management, the  
19 legislative transportation committee, and the transportation commission  
20 for review.