
HOUSE BILL 2620

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives R. Fisher, Brough, Eide, Patterson, Veloria, Valle, Heavey and Johanson

Read first time 01/19/94. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to transportation facilities siting; amending RCW
2 36.70A.200; and adding new sections to chapter 47.68 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Many transportation facilities are
5 exceedingly difficult to site and expand, even though they may have
6 crucial state-wide significance because of their social and economic
7 importance to the state. Therefore, the legislature finds that
8 transportation facilities of state-wide significance must be adequately
9 addressed and that a new process is needed to accomplish this. The new
10 process shall resolve situations in which regional planning processes
11 are unable to agree upon approaches for addressing significant
12 transportation needs within regional transportation plans. The process
13 is also designed to ensure that transportation needs are adequately
14 addressed in regional transportation planning and local comprehensive
15 plans.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The secretary may declare an impasse and a
17 threat to an important state interest and request the commission to
18 appoint a transportation advisory panel if (1) the secretary determines

1 that a regional transportation plan does not satisfactorily address the
2 state's interest with respect to planning for transportation needs
3 either through siting, expansion, or provision of alternative modes.
4 The determination relates only to facilities of state-wide significance
5 or a transportation system of state-wide significance; (2) there has
6 been ample time for addressing transportation in the regional
7 transportation plan and local comprehensive plans, but either no
8 decision has been reached or the process has resulted in a decision
9 that will not address transportation needs. Timelines must be
10 identified and specified in the department's guidelines developed for
11 regional transportation plans and land-use compatibility elements in
12 local comprehensive plans; (3) the process by which the secretary
13 reviews and requests changes to regional transportation plans and local
14 comprehensive plans with respect to transportation needs has been
15 exhausted; (4) the secretary has sought by all reasonable informal
16 means to encourage local governments and regional bodies to cooperate
17 in a planning and decision-making process to address transportation
18 needs in a timely manner.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The commission shall appoint a
20 transportation advisory panel consisting of three persons who may be
21 experts in the relevant field of transportation and experienced in
22 making public policy. The transportation advisory panel shall review
23 applicable reports and consult participants and experts as deemed
24 necessary. The panel's recommendation must reflect the state-wide
25 interest and specify in detail the obligations of all parties and
26 timelines for meeting them under applicable statutes. The panel shall
27 forward its recommendations to the governor, whose decision takes
28 precedence over any decision by a growth planning hearings board.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 36.70A.200 and 1991 sp.s. c 32 s 1 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) The comprehensive plan of each county and city that is planning
32 under this chapter shall include a process for identifying and siting
33 essential public facilities. Essential public facilities include those
34 facilities that are typically difficult to site, such as airports,
35 state education facilities and state or regional transportation
36 facilities, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste

1 handling facilities, and in-patient facilities including substance
2 abuse facilities, mental health facilities, and group homes.

3 (2) The office of financial management shall maintain a list of
4 those essential state public facilities that are required or likely to
5 be built within the next six years. The list must include new or
6 expanded airports of state-wide significance as defined by the
7 department of transportation. "State-wide significance" for this and
8 all other purposes, includes all transportation projects and facilities
9 regardless of ownership that serve the function of transporting people
10 and goods in substantial volume between two or more counties, regions,
11 states, or countries. The office of financial management may at any
12 time add facilities to the list. No local comprehensive plan or
13 development regulation may preclude the siting of essential public
14 facilities.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. Sections 1 through 3 of this act are added
16 to chapter 47.68 RCW.

--- END ---