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HOUSE BILL 1474

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Reams, Cairnes, Lisk, Sherstad, Sheldon, Sheahan, Pennington, Hatfield, Koster, Dunn, Doumit, McMorris, Alexander, Thompson, Bush, McDonald, Delvin, Wensman and Mulliken

Read first time 01/28/97. Referred to Committee on Government Reform & Land Use.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing categorical exemptions from the state  
2 environmental policy act within areas designated as urban growth areas  
3 under the growth management act; and adding a new section to chapter  
4 43.21C RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 The department of ecology shall adopt rules increasing categorical  
9 exemptions for minor new construction and minor land use decisions  
10 within urban growth areas designated under RCW 36.70A.110 beyond  
11 categorical exemptions for minor new construction and minor land use  
12 decisions in any area outside of those designated urban growth areas.

13 These rules shall provide for increased levels of minor new  
14 construction and minor land use decisions that are categorically exempt  
15 within an urban growth area and expand the authority of a county, city,  
16 or town to raise the exemption level for minor new construction  
17 activities and minor land use decisions occurring within an urban  
18 growth area beyond the level specified by the department. At a  
19 minimum, the increase in minor new construction and minor new land use

1 decisions that are categorically exempt within an urban growth area  
2 shall include approvals of the: (1) Construction of or location of any  
3 residential structures of ten or fewer dwelling units; (2) construction  
4 of an office, school, commercial, recreational, service, or storage  
5 building with eight thousand or fewer square feet of gross floor area,  
6 and with associated parking facilities; (3) construction of a parking  
7 lot designed for forty or fewer automobiles; and (4) division of land  
8 into ten or fewer lots or parcels.

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