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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2170

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Trade & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Pennington, Sheldon and Ogden)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to investments of state-wide significance; and  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that certain  
5 industrial investments merit special designation and treatment by  
6 governmental entities. The legislature further finds that such  
7 investments bolster the local economy and have an impact on the state  
8 economy as a whole. It is the intent of the legislature to recognize  
9 that certain industrial investments and projects are of state-wide  
10 significance and that it is in the state interest to expedite their  
11 completion.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
13 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and  
15 economic development.

16 (2) "Director" means the director of the department of community,  
17 trade, and economic development.

18 (3) "Eligible projects" means:

1 (a) Construction of new buildings and the acquisition of new  
2 machinery and equipment when the buildings, machinery, and equipment  
3 are to be used for either manufacturing or research and development  
4 activities; or

5 (b) Acquisition of new machinery and equipment to be used for  
6 either manufacturing or research and development if the machinery and  
7 equipment is housed in a leased new building; or

8 (c) Modernization projects involving construction, renovation,  
9 acquisition, or upgrading of existing buildings or machinery and  
10 equipment, including labor and services, and are intended to increase  
11 the production of the facility.

12 (4) "Local government" means either: (a) A city or county that  
13 plans under chapter 36.70 RCW; or (b) a city or county that is required  
14 to plan or elects to plan under chapter 36.70A RCW.

15 (5) "Machinery and equipment" has the same meaning as in RCW  
16 82.61.010 and 82.63.010.

17 (6) "Manufacturing" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.61.010.

18 (7) "Project of state-wide significance" means an eligible project  
19 that meets the requirements of section 3 of this act.

20 (8) "Research and development" has the same meaning as in RCW  
21 82.61.010 and 82.63.010.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** For purposes of this chapter an industrial  
23 investment of state-wide significance or a project of state-wide  
24 significance is a border crossing project that involves both private  
25 and public investments carried out in conjunction with adjacent states  
26 or provinces or a private industrial development with private capital  
27 investment in manufacturing or research and development. To qualify as  
28 an industrial project of state-wide significance, the project must be  
29 completed after January 1, 1997, and have:

30 (1)(a) In counties with a population of less than or equal to  
31 twenty thousand, a capital investment of twenty million dollars;

32 (b) In counties with a population of greater than twenty thousand  
33 but no more than fifty thousand, a capital investment of fifty million  
34 dollars;

35 (c) In counties with a population of greater than fifty thousand  
36 but no more than one hundred thousand, a capital investment of one  
37 hundred million dollars;

1 (d) In counties with a population of greater than one hundred  
2 thousand but no more than two hundred thousand, a capital investment of  
3 two hundred million dollars;

4 (e) In counties with a population of greater than two hundred  
5 thousand but no more than four hundred thousand, a capital investment  
6 of four hundred million dollars;

7 (f) In counties with a population of greater than four hundred  
8 thousand but no more than one million, a capital investment of six  
9 hundred million dollars; or

10 (g) In counties with a population of greater than one million, a  
11 capital investment of one billion dollars; or

12 (2) Been designated by the director as a project of state-wide  
13 significance either (a) because the county in which the project is to  
14 be located is a distressed county and the economic circumstances of the  
15 county merit the additional assistance such designation will bring; or  
16 (b) because the impact on a region due to the size and complexity of  
17 the project merits such designation.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) A local government that receives an  
19 application for the development of a project of state-wide significance  
20 may, at their option, develop a process for expediting the review,  
21 approval, permitting, and completion of the project.

22 (2) The local government may notify the department within ten days  
23 of receipt of an application for the development of a project of state-  
24 wide significance. The notification to the department shall contain  
25 information on the type of project, the amount of public and private  
26 investment in the project, and the local government contact person.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The director shall assign an ombudsman  
28 to each project of state-wide significance. The ombudsman is  
29 responsible for assembling a team of state and local government and  
30 private officials to help meet the planning and development needs of  
31 the specific project of state-wide significance.

32 (2) The ombudsman shall include those in the team that have  
33 responsibility over the planning, permitting and licensing,  
34 infrastructure development, work force development services,  
35 transportation services, and the provision of utilities for the  
36 specific project of state-wide significance.

1 (3) The team shall work together to expedite the approval of  
2 necessary permits for the furtherance of the specific project.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** In order to provide service to developers of  
4 projects of state-wide significance, the department shall charge  
5 reasonable fees for services under this chapter. The fees must be  
6 based on a percentage of the cost of the eligible project and are not  
7 intended to exceed the costs of providing the service. The fees may  
8 not be paid from funds from a federal, state, or local government  
9 source.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The ombudsman fee account is created in the  
11 state treasury. The account consists of all receipts from fees charged  
12 by the department under section 6 of this act. Expenditures from the  
13 account may be used only for purposes of this chapter. Only the  
14 director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the  
15 account. Expenditures from the account may be spent only after  
16 appropriation.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute  
18 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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