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**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 82.62.010.

18 (7) "Project of state-wide significance" means an eligible project  
19 where the initial construction is scheduled to start after July 1,  
20 1997, and: (a) The amount of the investment is equal to, or greater  
21 than, one thousand dollars times the population of the county where the  
22 eligible project is located; or (b) is designated a project of state-  
23 wide significance by the director under section 3 of this act.

24 (8) "Research and development" has the same meaning as in RCW  
25 82.61.010 and 82.63.010.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A local government that receives an  
27 application for the development of a project of state-wide significance  
28 shall develop a process for expediting the review, approval,  
29 permitting, and completion of the project.

30 (2) The local government shall notify the department within ten  
31 days of receipt of an application for the development of a project of  
32 state-wide significance. The notification to the department shall  
33 contain information on the type of project, the amount of public and  
34 private investment in the project, and the local government contact  
35 person.

36 (3) A project that does not meet the requirements of section 2(7)  
37 of this act may still be designated a project of state-wide  
38 significance by the director. In designating a project under this

1 subsection, the director must state the reasons why the project is of  
2 importance at both the local and state level, the impact on the local  
3 economy, and how the project will benefit from the expedited process.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The director shall assign an ombudsman  
5 to each project of state-wide significance. The ombudsman is  
6 responsible for assembling a team of state and local government and  
7 private officials to help meet the planning and development needs of  
8 the specific project of state-wide significance.

9 (2) The ombudsman shall include those in the team that have  
10 responsibility over the planning, permitting and licensing,  
11 infrastructure development, work force development services,  
12 transportation services, and the provision of utilities for the  
13 specific project of state-wide significance.

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

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

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The ombudsman fee account is created in the  
24 state treasury. The account consists of all receipts from fees charged  
25 by the department under section 5 of this act. Expenditures from the  
26 account may be used only for the purposes of this chapter. Only the  
27 director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the  
28 account. Expenditures from the account may be spent only after  
29 appropriation.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute  
31 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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