

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2123

As Reported By House Committee On:

State Government

Title: An act relating to expedited rule making.

Brief Description: Consolidating procedures for expedited rule making.

Sponsors: Representatives Cox, Grant, McMorris, Romero, D. Schmidt and Doumit.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government: 2/23/99, 3/2/99 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Duplicative provisions providing for the expedited rules adoption process are eliminated and the expedited rules adoption process is made permanent.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives McMorris, Republican Co-Chair; Romero, Democratic Co-Chair; Campbell, Republican Vice Chair; Miloscia, Democratic Vice Chair; Dunshee; Haigh; Lambert and D. Schmidt.

Staff: Steve Lundin (786-7127).

Background:

The Administrative Procedures Act contains procedures for most state agencies to adopt rules.

A variety of requirements are established for agencies to adopt rules. Further requirements are established for the adoption of significant legislative rules.

An expedited rule adoption process was established in 1997, that involves an abbreviated process. These provisions expire December 31, 2000. Rules may be

adopted under this process without preparation of a small business economic impact statement, publishing a statement indicating whether the rule constitutes a significant legislative rule, preparing a significant legislative rule analysis, making a pre-notice inquiry, or conducting a hearing. Notice is published indicating the use of the expedited rule adoption process. If any person files written objections to use of this process within 45 days of the publishing of the notice, the use of the expedited rule adoption process stops, and the agency may proceed to adopt the proposed rules following the regular rule adoption process.

The expedited rule adoption process may only be used to adopt rules that: (a) relate to internal governmental operations that are not subject to violation by a person; (b) adopt or incorporate by reference, without material change, federal laws or regulations, state laws or rules of other agencies, shoreline master programs other than those governing shorelines of statewide significance, or national consensus codes that are referenced in state law establishing industry standards; (c) correct typographical errors, make address or name changes, or clarify language of a rule without changing its effect; (d) contain matters that are explicitly and specifically dictated by statute; (e) have been the subject of negotiated rule making, pilot rule making, or some other process involving substantial participation by interested parties before development of the rule; or (f) are being amended after the significant legislative rule adoption process.

A separate section of law provides for an expedited process to repeal rules that follows the expedited rule adoption process.

Legislation was enacted in 1998 altering the Administrative Procedures Act. In part, this legislation deleted the expedited rule adoption process from one statute and inserted the same provisions into a new section of law. This new section of law included a provision terminating the section on December 31, 2000. The Governor vetoed the section that deleted the expedited rule adoption process but did not veto the new section containing the same language. As a result, the same expedited rule making procedure is included in two separate sections of law.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The duplicative provisions of state law relating to the expedited rules adoption process are eliminated. The authority for expedited repeal of rules is placed into the single statute that provides for expedited rule adoption. The termination of these provisions in December 31, 2000, is eliminated.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: Language is no longer deleted providing that agencies are encouraged to advise the public of its current opinions, approaches, and likely courses of action by means of interpretive or policy statements.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2000.

Testimony For: (Original bill) This is a clean up bill. This makes the expedited process permanent.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Cox, prime sponsor; and Amber Balch, Association of Washington Businesses.