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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1204**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Capital Budget (originally sponsored by Representatives K. Schmidt, Fisher, Romero, Mitchell, G. Chandler, Murray, Linville and Wood)

Read first time 03/08/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordination of environmental restoration and  
2 land acquisition; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and creating a  
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that  
6 state agencies that provide environmental protection, restoration,  
7 enhancement, and mitigation by financing, or undertaking land  
8 acquisition, facility construction, or other activities be better  
9 coordinated with each other. Such coordination offers opportunities to  
10 jointly plan, finance, construct, permit, and operate facilities, to  
11 better address the needs of the environment on a local and regional  
12 basis, and to better address state-wide priorities to achieve the most  
13 beneficial and cost-effective results. The intent of the legislature  
14 is not to reduce or eliminate any environmental mitigation obligation  
15 of a government agency, but instead to more effectively meet that  
16 obligation through better coordination and identification of projects  
17 with highest environmental benefit.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    The definitions in this section apply

2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3        (1) "Advisory committee" means a committee advisory to the office  
4 consisting of representatives from the departments of community, trade,  
5 and economic development; ecology; fish and wildlife; natural  
6 resources; the parks and recreation commission; the interagency  
7 committee for outdoor recreation; the conservation commission; and the  
8 office of financial management. Other members may be added by majority  
9 vote of the committee. The governor, or the governor's designee, shall  
10 serve as chair of the advisory committee.

11        (2) "Environmental project" means land acquisition, facility  
12 construction, or other activity providing environmental protection,  
13 restoration, enhancement, or compensatory mitigation undertaken by  
14 state agencies or funded by state financial assistance programs. It  
15 does not mean the sale, transfer, exchange, or acquisition of trust  
16 lands managed by state agencies or regulatory environmental protection  
17 activities.

18        (3) "Office" means the environmental affairs office of the  
19 department of transportation.

20        (4) "Surplus real property" means any real property that is not  
21 needed by an agency now or in the foreseeable future.

22        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) The office shall provide a central

23 depository for information collected under this chapter. This  
24 depository shall collect and disseminate pertinent information on  
25 environmental projects through electronic based systems that may  
26 include geographic information systems and internet functionality.

27        (2) By December 31, 1999, the governor's office shall provide a  
28 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the progress  
29 of the coordination program and the advisory committee.

30        (3) By October 31, 2000, the governor's office shall report to the  
31 appropriate committees of the legislature its findings and  
32 recommendations on coordination of environmental projects. The report  
33 shall include a description of the methods used to: Collect  
34 information on environmental projects, determine coordination  
35 opportunities, examine programs, and determine benefits and costs of  
36 recommended actions.

37        (4) Beginning with fiscal year 2001, and each fiscal year  
38 thereafter, state agencies that receive an appropriation in the capital

1 budget or the transportation budget for an environmental project shall  
2 provide project information, including geographic location and general  
3 descriptive information, to the office no later than sixty days after  
4 the end of the fiscal year.

5 (5) Beginning with fiscal year 2003, and each fiscal year  
6 thereafter, state agencies that receive an appropriation in the omnibus  
7 appropriations act for an environmental project shall provide project  
8 information, including geographic location and general descriptive  
9 information, to the office no later than sixty days after the end of  
10 the fiscal year.

11 (6) Beginning with fiscal year 2005, and each fiscal year  
12 thereafter, all state agencies that have surplus real property  
13 available for sale, trade, lease, or reuse by other government entities  
14 shall provide information on those properties, including geographic  
15 location and general descriptive information, to the office no later  
16 than sixty days after the end of the fiscal year.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The advisory committee is established to  
18 advise and assist the office in:

19 (1) Developing methods and data base systems that facilitate the  
20 collection and coordination of environmental project information.

21 (2) Examining state financial assistance programs that provide  
22 funding for environmental protection, enhancement, restoration, and  
23 mitigation. The advisory committee shall identify opportunities for  
24 improved coordination that would make it easier and more efficient for  
25 agencies and organizations seeking funding to: Locate the programs,  
26 apply for funding, seek and receive technical assistance, provide  
27 required financial reports, provide compliance and environmental  
28 monitoring information, and provide project related information such as  
29 site location.

30 (3) Investigating opportunities for improved coordination of  
31 financial assistance programs for environmental projects while  
32 complying with the statutory purpose and policy objective of these  
33 programs. Areas for possible improved coordination may include:  
34 Program information dissemination; application deadlines; state-wide,  
35 regional, and local priorities for environmental protection,  
36 enhancement, restoration, and mitigation; application forms and  
37 required application information; technical assistance; environmental  
38 reporting and monitoring; and project related data.

1 (4) Making recommendations on the role that other state agencies,  
2 federal, tribal, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations,  
3 and the general public can play in providing information that would  
4 result in increased coordination of environmental protection,  
5 restoration, enhancement, and mitigation activities. The advisory  
6 committee shall solicit comments from agencies and organizations that  
7 are eligible for state financial assistance programs and solicit  
8 comments from federal, tribal, and local organizations that provide  
9 financial assistance for environmental projects.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted  
11 in any manner by a state, federal, or local governmental agency to  
12 require any additional permitting review or approval process or  
13 compliance procedure from any nongovernmental entity or individual  
14 person.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute  
16 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
18 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
19 June 30, 1999, in the state transportation budget or the omnibus  
20 appropriations act, this act is null and void.

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