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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5281**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources  
(originally sponsored by Senator T. Sheldon)

Read first time 02/15/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to the permit assistance center; amending RCW  
2 90.60.030, 90.60.040, and 90.60.050; repealing RCW 43.131.387 and  
3 43.131.388; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.60.030 and 1997 c 429 s 35 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The permit assistance center is established within the department.  
8 The center shall:

9 (1) Establish regional center offices at each of the four  
10 department regional or field offices;

11 (2) Publish and keep current one or more handbooks containing lists  
12 and explanations of all permit laws at each of its regional center  
13 offices. To the extent possible, the handbook shall include relevant  
14 local, state, federal, and tribal laws. A state agency or local  
15 government shall provide a reasonable number of copies of application  
16 forms, statutes, ordinances, rules, handbooks, and other informational  
17 material requested by the center and shall otherwise fully cooperate  
18 with the center. The center shall seek the cooperation of relevant  
19 federal agencies and tribal governments;

1       ~~((2))~~ (3) Establish, and make known, a point of contact at each  
2 of its regional center offices for distribution of the handbook and  
3 advice to the public as to its interpretation in any given case;

4       ~~((3))~~ (4) Establish, and make known, a point of contact at each  
5 of its regional center offices responsible for identifying and  
6 providing contact information for all local, state, and federal permits  
7 necessary to complete a project to applicants or other interested  
8 persons;

9       (5) Work closely and cooperatively with the business license center  
10 in providing efficient and nonduplicative service to the public;

11       ~~((4))~~ (6) Seek the assignment of employees from the permit  
12 agencies listed under RCW 90.60.020(6)(a) to serve on a rotating basis  
13 in staffing the center;

14       ~~((5))~~ (7) Collect and disseminate information to public and  
15 private entities on federal, state, local, and tribal government  
16 programs that rely on private professional expertise to assist  
17 governmental agencies in project permit review; and

18       ~~((6) Provide an annual report to the legislature on potential~~  
19 ~~conflicts and perceived inconsistencies among existing statutes. The~~  
20 ~~first report shall be submitted to the appropriate standing committees~~  
21 ~~of the house of representatives and senate by December 1, 1996))~~ (8)(a)

22 Work cooperatively with residents, local governments, and businesses in  
23 rural counties, and establish and implement plans and procedures for  
24 enhancing knowledge of and access to the center's services for  
25 individuals, businesses, and public agencies in rural counties and for  
26 businesses considering locating or expanding in rural counties; and

27       (b) Provide a biennial report to the legislature on the status of  
28 the center's plans and procedures for enhancing rural counties' access  
29 to and usage of the center as specified in RCW 90.60.030(8).

30       **Sec. 2.** RCW 90.60.040 and 1995 c 347 s 604 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32       (1) ~~((Not later than January 1, 1996,))~~ The center shall establish  
33 by rule an administrative process for the designation of a coordinating  
34 permit agency for a project.

35       (2) The administrative process shall consist of the establishment  
36 of guidelines for designating the coordinating permit agency for a  
37 project. If a permit agency is the lead agency for purposes of chapter  
38 43.21C RCW, that permit agency shall be the coordinating permit agency.

1 In other cases, the guidelines shall require that at least the  
2 following factors be considered in determining which permit agency has  
3 the greatest overall jurisdiction over the project:

4 (a) The types of facilities or activities that make up the project;

5 (b) The types of public health and safety and environmental  
6 concerns that should be considered in issuing permits for the project;

7 (c) The environmental medium that may be affected by the project,  
8 the extent of those potential effects, and the environmental protection  
9 measures that may be taken to prevent the occurrence of, or to  
10 mitigate, those potential effects;

11 (d) The regulatory activity that is of greatest importance in  
12 preventing or mitigating the effects that the project may have on  
13 public health and safety or the environment; and

14 (e) The statutory and regulatory requirements that apply to the  
15 project and the complexity of those requirements.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 90.60.050 and 1995 c 347 s 605 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 Upon the request of a project applicant, the center shall appoint  
19 a project facilitator to assist the applicant in determining which  
20 regulatory requirements, processes, and permits may be required for  
21 development and operation of the proposed project. If the applicant  
22 requests, the project facilitator shall also identify and provide  
23 contact information for all local, state, and federal permits necessary  
24 to complete a project. The project facilitator shall provide the  
25 information to the applicant and explain the options available to the  
26 applicant in obtaining the required permits. If the applicant  
27 requests, the center shall designate a coordinating permit agency as  
28 provided in RCW 90.60.060.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The following acts or parts of acts are each  
30 repealed:

31 (1) RCW 43.131.387 (Permit assistance center--Termination) and 1995  
32 c 347 s 617; and

33 (2) RCW 43.131.388 (Permit assistance center--Repeal) and 1995 c  
34 347 s 618.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its  
36 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the

1 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
2 persons or circumstances is not affected.

3       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
6 June 29, 1999.

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