

FINAL BILL REPORT

EHB 2498

C 306 L 02

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Establishing a pilot program authorizing designation of industrial land banks outside urban growth areas under certain circumstances.

Sponsors: By Representatives Fromhold, Dunn, Jarrett, Ogden, Lovick, Dunshee, Schmidt, Conway, Linville, Miloscia and Anderson.

House Committee on Local Government & Housing
Senate Committee on State & Local Government

Background:

Under the Growth Management Act (GMA), counties meeting specified growth criteria must satisfy specified planning requirements, including the adoption of comprehensive plans and designation of urban growth areas (UGAs) sufficient to permit the urban growth expected to occur over the next 20 years. A county that does not meet the criteria may choose to plan under the GMA. Currently 29 of Washington's 39 counties plan under the GMA.

Counties must encourage urban growth within UGAs and may allow growth outside UGAs if it is not urban in nature. The GMA contains several exceptions to the general prohibition against urban growth outside UGAs, including provisions for fully contained communities, master planned resorts, and specific major industrial developments under specified conditions. For a limited time, counties meeting specified population, geographic, and unemployment criteria were authorized to designate a bank of no more than two master planned locations suitable for manufacturing or industrial businesses that:

- require a parcel of land so large no suitable parcels are available within the UGA;
- are natural resource-based industries requiring a location near resource land upon which it is dependent; or
- require a location with characteristics such as proximity to transportation facilities or related industries such that there is no suitable location in an UGA. The bank may not be for retail commercial development or multitenant office parks.

The following criteria had to be met to establish a location for an industrial land bank:

- provision for new infrastructure or payment of impact fees;

- implementation of transit-oriented site planning and traffic demand management programs;
- buffering between the development and adjacent nonurban areas;
- provision of environmental protection, including air and water quality;
- establishment of development regulations to ensure urban growth will not occur in adjacent nonurban areas;
- mitigation of adverse impacts on resource lands;
- consistency of the development plan with critical areas regulations; and
- preparation of an inventory determining land suitable to site the location is unavailable within the UGA.

The counties eligible to use the original industrial land bank authority were Clark, Whatcom, Lewis, Grant and Clallam. The pilot program authority expired on December 31, 1999.

Legislation passed in 2001 authorized industrial land bank authority for Grant County and Lewis County until December 31, 2002. Any location included in an industrial land bank on or before December 31, 2002, by an eligible county is available for major industrial development if the statutory criteria are satisfied.

Summary:

Counties meeting specified population, geographic, and unemployment criteria may establish industrial land banks until December 31, 2007. Counties eligible to use this authority include Clark, Whatcom, Lewis, Grant, Clallam, Benton, Columbia, Mason, Jefferson, Franklin, Garfield, and Walla Walla counties. Counties that established a location in an industrial land bank outside the urban growth area prior to December 31, 2007, may keep those locations available if the statutory criteria are met.

Any county that has established a location in an industrial land bank using authority granted under any previous legislation may keep that location available for industrial development as long as the statutory criteria are met.

Counties that have established or propose to establish an industrial land bank must review the need within the county during the review and evaluation of comprehensive plans required by the GMA. The review must include a review of the availability of land for industrial and manufacturing uses within the urban growth area.

Additional criteria are added to the required criteria that must be met to include a location in the industrial land bank. Those additional criteria include:

- establishing an interlocal agreement related to infrastructure costs sharing and revenue sharing between the county and interested cities;
- establishing provisions for determining the availability of alternate sites within urban growth areas and the long-term annexation feasibility of land sites outside urban growth areas; and
- requiring development regulations that require the site to be used primarily for industrial and manufacturing businesses and specifying that the gross floor area of all commercial and service buildings shall not exceed 10 percent of the total gross floor area.
- commercial and service businesses located in the industrial site must be necessary to the primary industrial or manufacturing business and must be established concurrently with or subsequent to the industrial or manufacturing business.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 98 0

Senate 46 1 (Senate amended)

House 94 0 (House concurred)

Effective: June 13, 2002