
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2735

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Romero, Doumit, Linville, Rockefeller, Edwards, Ogden, Dickerson, Jackley, Grant, O'Brien, Upthegrove, Conway and Kenney)

Read first time 02/08/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the joint task force on permit
2 streamlining; creating new sections; providing an expiration date; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The joint task force on permit
6 streamlining is created to evaluate the effectiveness of state land
7 use, planning, environmental, and permitting statutes to coordinate and
8 streamline permit review processes and to consider whether any changes
9 are needed to these laws to facilitate such coordination and
10 streamlining, while ensuring protection of the environment.

11 (2) The joint task force shall consist of the following twelve
12 legislative members:

13 (a) Six members of the house of representatives, three from the
14 majority party and three from the minority party, appointed by the
15 speaker of the house of representatives; and

16 (b) Six members of the senate, three from the majority party and
17 three from the minority party, appointed by the majority leader of the
18 senate.

1 (3) The joint task force may appoint an advisory committee of
2 advisors and experts to provide input on various subjects. For
3 purposes of this subsection, "advisors and experts" includes, but is
4 not limited to, representatives of: Cities; counties; environmental
5 groups; business organizations; building industry; land use planners,
6 attorneys, and consultants; tribes; the office of the governor; and
7 state agencies with planning functions and/or permit authority.

8 (4) Members of the joint task force shall be reimbursed for travel
9 expenses as provided in RCW 44.04.120. The staff of senate committee
10 services and the office of program research of the house of
11 representatives shall staff the joint task force.

12 (5) The joint task force shall be cochaired by one senator and one
13 state representative appointed by the senate majority leader and the
14 speaker of the house of representatives respectively.

15 (6) Any final findings, conclusions, or recommendations of the
16 joint task force must be agreed to by a majority of the members;
17 however, minority findings, conclusions, or recommendations may be
18 included that are submitted by any member or group of members.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint task force on permit
20 streamlining shall consider the following objectives:

21 (a) Development of a coordinated permit process for all required
22 project permits. This process must be applied with certainty,
23 consistency, and assurance of swift permit action, while ensuring
24 environmental protection and best management practices;

25 (b) Improvement in the coordination of state and local agencies in
26 reviewing and responding to project permit applications;

27 (c) Reduction in delays associated with project permit review so
28 that permit decisions are made in a timely and predictable manner;

29 (d) Enhancement of state and local agencies' responsiveness to
30 concerns about project review processes and decisions from project
31 permit applicants or interested parties;

32 (e) Identification of resource problems that affect the ability of
33 permitting agencies to issue permits in a timely manner; and

34 (f) Examination of a means to expedite permit processing when more
35 stringent environmental standards are agreed upon.

36 (2) The joint task force shall make recommendations for legislation
37 and policy regarding the objectives identified in subsection (1) of
38 this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The joint task force shall commence May 1,
2 2002, and present a final report and any legislative proposals to the
3 legislature by January 10, 2003.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires June 1, 2003.

--- END ---