
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2757

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Rockefeller, Ericksen, Hunt, Doumit, Linville and Pearson)

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

1 AN ACT Relating to administration of hydraulic project approval;
2 and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) By September 1, 2002, the department of
5 fish and wildlife must establish an advisory committee of no more than
6 sixteen members. The advisory committee must consist of a balanced
7 representation of state and local governments, tribes, business and
8 industry interests, and environmental interests to assist in a review
9 of the state hydraulic project approval program. The advisory
10 committee may establish technical subcommittees as needed.

11 (2) In its review of the hydraulic approval program, the advisory
12 committee must focus on ways of improving outcomes for the program so
13 that permit applicants obtain improved service and fish receive
14 enhanced protection. The advisory committee must review the statutes
15 and rules to determine if there are clear goals for the program,
16 whether benefits are being obtained in an economical manner, whether
17 the law is being consistently applied, the effectiveness of permit
18 conditions and mitigation required for project approvals, and the
19 adequacy of monitoring to ensure that the protection of fish life is

1 being achieved. The advisory committee must also assist the department
2 of fish and wildlife in developing outcome-based performance measures
3 concerning the timeliness of permit issuance, service delivery and
4 client satisfaction, and the elimination of duplicative or conflicting
5 provisions with other state, federal, or local regulatory programs. In
6 addition, the advisory committee must make recommendations on
7 additional mechanisms that might be used to improve administrative
8 efficiencies while maintaining the effectiveness of the program as a
9 whole, such as workload allocation, increased training and education
10 programs for department staff and groups responsible for complying with
11 the hydraulic permit requirements, electronic permitting, as well as
12 exploring the need for new resources for the program. The advisory
13 committee must address the development and implementation of the
14 alternative permit program as part of its review, and make
15 recommendations regarding the levels of any fees and the methodology of
16 setting any fees that the department of fish and wildlife is
17 considering establishing. Any recommendations of the advisory
18 committee concerning fees must be consistent with the direction
19 provided in RCW 76.09.030(2) to work for the integration of the forest
20 practices and hydraulic permitting processes. It is the legislature's
21 intent that no hydraulic permit fees be charged once these two
22 permitting processes are integrated. The advisory committee must
23 submit a report containing its recommendations and findings to the
24 appropriate legislative committees by December 31, 2003.

--- END ---