
HOUSE BILL 2878

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Reardon, Morris, Morell, Armstrong and Buck

Read first time 01/31/2002. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the availability of construction
2 aggregates used in transportation projects; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that as the
5 state embarks on an aggressive twenty-year transportation plan to
6 relieve severe traffic congestion, increase freight mobility, increase
7 the state's ability to become more regionally competitive, attract new
8 businesses, and contribute to our statewide economic future, it is
9 necessary to ensure the availability of construction aggregates used in
10 transportation. The legislature further recognizes that these mineral
11 resources of regional significance are fundamentally necessary, vital,
12 and essential to the construction, maintenance, and repair of the
13 transportation infrastructure of Washington state.

14 The legislature finds that not all mineral resources of long-term
15 commercial significance can be used as construction aggregates and not
16 all regions of the state have sufficient supplies of construction
17 aggregates. As a result, transportation projects may not be completed
18 timely, economically, and with the quality of aggregates necessary for

1 the long-term durability of Washington's vital infrastructure and
2 transportation needs.

3 It is further recognized that as Washington state continues to grow
4 and more investments in transportation and related infrastructure,
5 manufacturing facilities, affordable housing, and other community
6 economic development facilities are needed, construction aggregates
7 will become a mineral resource of regional significance. Therefore,
8 the legislature declares that a comprehensive review and study is
9 necessary to ensure that construction grade aggregate is available in
10 sufficient amounts for the state's needs.

11 (2)(a) The review committee on transportation construction
12 materials is created to study the state's need for aggregate as
13 recognized under subsection (1) of this section. The committee is
14 comprised of the following:

15 (i) The chair of the house of representative's task force on
16 economic competition, who is chair of the review committee;

17 (ii) The chairs and ranking minority caucus members of the house of
18 representatives and senate committees on transportation;

19 (iii) The secretary of transportation;

20 (iv) A geologist representing the department of natural resources;

21 (v) A representative of the association of general contractors;

22 (vi) A representative of the governor;

23 (vii) A representative of the Washington chapter of the American
24 public works association; and

25 (viii) An operating engineer representing the building and trades
26 council.

27 (b) The committee shall:

28 (i) Determine whether the goals and requirements under chapter
29 36.70A RCW are being met with regard to the identification,
30 designation, and supply of aggregate necessary to meet the twenty-year
31 comprehensive plans and whether sufficient quality and quantity of
32 aggregate is available to meet the transportation elements of the
33 department of transportation and county, city, or municipal projects;

34 (ii) Determine whether environmental review procedures allow the
35 efficient processing of permit applications without reducing
36 environmental protection and without undermining the expectation that
37 a successful project will receive a permit in a timely manner;

38 (iii) Ensure the state has competitive and efficient industries by
39 evaluating and identifying areas of redundant, duplicative, and costly

1 regulations and suggesting remedies to eliminate those inefficient
2 impediments;

3 (iv) Consider whether the aggregate and affiliated industries
4 should be regulated by one agency in order to improve the permit
5 process by providing a more complete and better understanding of
6 technical, operating, reclamation, usual and customary practices, and
7 enforcement issues; and

8 (v) No later than December 15, 2002, prepare and submit to the
9 appropriate committees of the legislature its findings and any
10 legislation necessary to implement the review committee's
11 recommendations.

12 (2) The office of program research within the house of
13 representatives shall provide technical and staff support.

14 (3) For the purposes of this section "construction aggregate" or
15 "aggregate" includes, but is not limited to, minerals such as sand,
16 gravel, stone, hard rock, or other aggregates of sufficient quality,
17 durability, and strength that are consistent with the specifications
18 adopted by the Washington state department of transportation and the
19 American standards of testing materials (ASTM C-33).

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