
HOUSE BILL 2985

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Ericksen, Anderson, Armstrong, Schindler, Holmquist, Mielke, Pflug, Mulliken, Boldt and Woods

Read first time 02/27/2002. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to transportation project permits; and adding new
2 sections to chapter 47.06C RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that watershed
5 planning and protection can enhance the selection of wetland, storm
6 water, and riparian mitigation sites. The legislature also finds that
7 locating mitigation sites adjacent to or in close proximity to impacted
8 sites may not be the most beneficial use of those sites within a
9 watershed, and that locating mitigation sites to better locations
10 within a watershed can both enhance the benefits of department
11 mitigation and reduce the cost of that mitigation.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** When developing wetlands, storm water, and
13 riparian mitigation sites for ecological restoration and enhancement as
14 compensation for impacts within a water resource inventory area, the
15 department may locate those wetlands at any location within the same
16 water resource inventory area. In evaluating mitigation sites, the
17 department shall consider the hydrology of the watershed, the location
18 of other environmental projects and activities by regional fishery

1 enhancement groups or other watershed groups, and the costs and
2 benefits of those sites.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall develop a unified one-
4 stop permit process for transportation projects to comply with
5 environmental standards and best management practices set forth in
6 federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The department shall
7 make this process available to local governments that may wish to adopt
8 it.

9 The department shall contact appropriate agencies to form an
10 interdisciplinary team for projects not covered by programmatic
11 permits. These teams must include the department, permitting/resource
12 agencies, and private or public sector discipline experts.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall seek comment and audits
14 from agencies that issue permits to department projects. The
15 department shall work with these agencies to insure access to those
16 agencies for periodic auditing of the department process, performing
17 project visits for compliance, and review of monitoring data. The
18 department shall compile data from this process to measure its
19 performance in terms of permit compliance, environmental benefit,
20 project delivery, and cost savings.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The permit process may be expanded or
22 contracted to fit the unique issues for a project and may include
23 federal, state, and local jurisdictions, and any number of media such
24 as air, watershed, water quality, water resource, hydraulic permit
25 approval, noise, wetlands, streambank protection, shorelines, hazardous
26 materials, erosion control, or other environmental elements that may
27 require approval by regulatory bodies. This process is intended as an
28 extension of the National Environmental Policy Act and the State
29 Environmental Policy Act documentation process, and is not intended to
30 supplant early involvement by resource and regulatory agencies, but
31 rather is intended to streamline the permitting process.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are added
33 to chapter 47.06C RCW.

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