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**Trade & Economic Development  
Committee**

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**SSB 5761**

**Brief Description:** Modifying requirements for industrial projects of statewide significance.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators T. Sheldon and Shin).

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Expands the definition of industrial projects of statewide significance.

**Hearing Date:** 3/21/03

**Staff:** Tracey Taylor (786-7196).

**Background:**

In 1997, the Legislature created a process to expedite the development of industrial projects of statewide significance. Industrial investments of statewide significance are defined as either a border crossing project that involves both private and public investments or a private capital investment in manufacturing or research and development. The capital investment threshold is dependent on the size of the population in a county. The capital investment requirements range from \$20 million for a project located in a county with a population of 20,000 or less, to \$1 billion for a project located in a county with a population greater than one million. The Director of the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED) may designate a project as one of statewide significance in special circumstances.

Counties and cities may include in their written plans a process to expedite the review, approval, permitting, and completion of projects of statewide significance.

The DCTED must assign an ombudsman to each project of statewide significance to assemble a team of state, local government, and private officials to help meet the project's planning and development needs.

In 2001, the Legislature created the Office of Permit Assistance (OPA) in the Office of

Financial Management (OFM) to provide information, facilitation, and coordination services to help streamline the permitting process.

**Summary of Bill:**

The definition of industrial projects of statewide significance is expanded to include projects in rural counties with 50 or more projected full-time post-construction employment positions and projects in urban counties with 100 or more projected full-time post-construction employment positions.

In order to qualify as a industrial project of statewide significance, an application for the development project must be submitted to the DCTED. The application is to be developed by DCTED, and must include, at minimum, the location of the project, the applicant's average employment in the state in the prior year, estimated new employment related to the project, estimated wages of the employees related to the project, an estimated time schedule for completion and operation.

The application must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the legislative authority of any jurisdiction that will have the proposed industrial project within its boundaries. No application can be approved without such a letter, which must state that the jurisdiction joins in the request for the designation, and has or will hire the professional staff required to expedite the necessary processes.

DCTED will certify that a project meets or will meet the requirements to be designated an industrial project of statewide significance.

Counties and cities with projects designated as industrial projects of statewide significance must enter into agreement with the OPA and the project managers of the such projects in order to expedite the process. This agreement must require expedited permit processing for the project's design and construction, expedited environmental review processing, expedited processing of requests for street, right of way, or easement vacations necessary for the project's construction, and any other requirements as designated by the OPA.

The OPA must provide facilitation and coordination services to industrial projects of statewide significance.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.