

1707-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Jarrett, Simpson, Shabro, Sullivan, Moeller, Berkey, Schindler, Linville and Anderson)

Brief Description: Revising environmental review provisions to improve the development approval process and enhance economic development.

HB 1707-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Provides that, in order to accommodate infill development and thereby realize the goals and policies of comprehensive plans adopted according to chapter 36.70A RCW, a city or county planning under RCW 36.70A.040 is authorized by this act to establish categorical exemptions from the requirements of chapter 43.21C RCW. An exemption adopted under this act applies even if it differs from the categorical exemptions adopted by rule of the department under RCW 43.21C.110(1)(a). An exemption may be adopted by a city or county under this act if it meets the following criteria: (1) It categorically exempts government action related to development that is new residential or mixed-use development proposed to fill in an urban growth area designated according to RCW 36.70A.110, where current density and intensity of use in the area is lower than called for in the goals and policies of the applicable comprehensive plan;

(2) It does not exempt government action related to development that would exceed the density or intensity of use called for in the goals and policies of the applicable comprehensive plan; and

(3) The city or county's applicable comprehensive plan was previously subjected to environmental analysis through an environmental impact statement under the requirements of this chapter prior to adoption.

Provides that rules adopted by the department according to RCW 43.21C.110 regarding project specific impacts that may not have been adequately addressed apply to any determination made under this act. In these situations, in which all adverse environmental impacts will be mitigated below the level of significance as a result of mitigation measures included by changing, clarifying, or conditioning of the proposed action and/or regulatory requirements of development regulations adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW or other local, state, or federal laws, a determination of nonsignificance or a mitigated determination of nonsignificance is the proper threshold determination.