
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2049

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Kilmer, Haler, Wallace, Walsh, Sells, Springer, Upthegrove, Simpson, Chase and Linville)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhanced permit assistance pilot programs;
2 amending RCW 43.42.010; adding a new section to chapter 43.42 RCW; and
3 making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.42 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that land use and environmental
8 permitting programs have been created to protect public health and
9 environmental quality. The legislature believes that such permitting
10 processes should be fair, transparent, and understandable. The
11 legislature also finds that permit applicants seek predictability,
12 efficiency, and collaboration in permitting decisions.

13 (2) At the local permitting level, the legislature finds that
14 accurate information, permit coordination, and problem solving are
15 critical for applicants. The legislature finds that local permitting
16 centers must respond to a wide variety of permit applicants, from the
17 individual citizen seeking a building permit to international
18 corporations requiring multiple federal, state, and local permits. The

1 legislature recognizes that local permitting departments may not be
2 sufficiently funded or organized to the extent necessary to provide
3 enhanced technical assistance for different types of applicants.

4 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to provide financial
5 assistance to local permitting departments to assist them in enhancing
6 service, improving process efficiency, and increasing predictable
7 permitting outcomes.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.42.010 and 2003 c 71 s 2 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) The office of regulatory assistance is created in the office of
11 financial management and shall be administered by the office of the
12 governor to assist citizens, businesses, and project applicants.

13 (2) The office shall:

14 (a) Maintain and furnish information as provided in RCW 43.42.040;

15 (b) Furnish facilitation as provided in RCW 43.42.050;

16 (c) Furnish coordination as provided in RCW 43.42.060;

17 (d) Coordinate cost reimbursement as provided in RCW 43.42.070;

18 (e) Work with state agencies and local governments to continue to
19 develop a range of permit assistance options for project applicants;

20 (f) Review initiatives developed by the transportation permit
21 efficiency and accountability committee established in chapter 47.06C
22 RCW and determine if any would be beneficial if implemented for other
23 types of projects;

24 (g) Work to develop informal processes for dispute resolution
25 between agencies and permit applicants;

26 (h) Conduct customer surveys to evaluate its effectiveness; ~~((and))~~

27 (i) Provide the following biennial reports to the governor and the
28 appropriate committees of the legislature:

29 (i) A performance report, based on the customer surveys required in
30 (h) of this subsection;

31 (ii) A report on any statutory or regulatory conflicts identified
32 by the office in the course of its duties that arise from differing
33 legal authorities and roles of agencies and how these were resolved.
34 The report may include recommendations to the legislature and to
35 agencies; and

36 (iii) A report regarding use of outside independent consultants

1 under RCW 43.42.070, including the nature and amount of work performed
2 and implementation of requirements relating to costs;

3 (j) Disseminate information about best permitting practices to
4 local government permitting departments; and

5 (k) Select two local government planning and permitting offices to
6 participate in an enhanced permit assistance pilot program. Such
7 enhancements may include, but are not limited to:

8 (i) Creation of local and state interagency planning and permit
9 review teams;

10 (ii) Use of advanced online planning and permit applications;

11 (iii) Streamlining planning and permit processes;

12 (iv) Using loaned executives; and

13 (v) Additional technical assistance and guidance for permit
14 applicants.

15 (3) (~~A director of the office shall be hired no later than June 1,~~
16 ~~2003.~~

17 ~~(4))~~) The office shall give priority to furnishing assistance to
18 small projects when expending general fund moneys allocated to it.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or
20 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
21 year ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the office of
22 regulatory assistance for the purposes of this act.

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