
HOUSE BILL 3259

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Murray and Ericks

Read first time 01/30/2006. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to state environmental policy for significant
2 transportation projects; amending RCW 43.21C.030; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.21C RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.21C.030 and 1971 ex.s. c 109 s 3 are each amended
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature authorizes and directs that, to the fullest extent
8 possible: (1) The policies, regulations, and laws of the state of
9 Washington shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the
10 policies set forth in this chapter, and (2) all branches of government
11 of this state, including state agencies, municipal and public
12 corporations, and counties shall:

13 (a) Utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will
14 insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the
15 environmental design arts in planning and in decision making which may
16 have an impact on man's environment;

17 (b) Identify and develop methods and procedures, in consultation
18 with the department of ecology and the ecological commission, which

1 will insure that presently unquantified environmental amenities and
2 values will be given appropriate consideration in decision making along
3 with economic and technical considerations;

4 (c) Include in every recommendation or report on proposals for
5 legislation and other major actions significantly affecting the quality
6 of the environment, a detailed statement by the responsible official
7 on:

8 (i) the environmental impact of the proposed action;

9 (ii) any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided
10 should the proposal be implemented;

11 (iii) subject to section 2 of this act, alternatives to the
12 proposed action;

13 (iv) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's
14 environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term
15 productivity; and

16 (v) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources
17 which would be involved in the proposed action should it be
18 implemented;

19 (d) Prior to making any detailed statement, the responsible
20 official shall consult with and obtain the comments of any public
21 agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect
22 to any environmental impact involved. Copies of such statement and the
23 comments and views of the appropriate federal, province, state, and
24 local agencies, which are authorized to develop and enforce
25 environmental standards, shall be made available to the governor, the
26 department of ecology, the ecological commission, and the public, and
27 shall accompany the proposal through the existing agency review
28 processes;

29 (e) Study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to
30 recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved
31 conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources;

32 (f) Recognize the world-wide and long-range character of
33 environmental problems and, where consistent with state policy, lend
34 appropriate support to initiatives, resolutions, and programs designed
35 to maximize international cooperation in anticipating and preventing a
36 decline in the quality of mankind's world environment;

37 (g) Make available to the federal government, other states,

1 provinces of Canada, municipalities, institutions, and individuals,
2 advice and information useful in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing
3 the quality of the environment;

4 (h) Initiate and utilize ecological information in the planning and
5 development of natural resource-oriented projects.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) If the alternatives to the proposed action are for a
9 significant transportation project that exceeds fifty million dollars
10 in total cost, the responsible official shall seek legislative review
11 and approval of:

12 (a) The criteria used to analyze alternatives to the project;

13 (b) Alternatives of the proposed action for consideration; and

14 (c) The alternative selected.

15 (2) For purposes of this section, "legislative review and approval"
16 means approval in the omnibus transportation act.

--- END ---