
SENATE BILL 5318

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, Kastama, Rockefeller, and Shin; by request of Office of Regulatory Assistance

Read first time 01/20/11. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the office of regulatory assistance; amending
2 RCW 34.05.328; repealing RCW 43.131.401 and 43.131.402; providing an
3 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 34.05.328 and 2010 c 112 s 15 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Before adopting a rule described in subsection (5) of this
8 section, an agency shall:

9 (a) Clearly state in detail the general goals and specific
10 objectives of the statute that the rule implements;

11 (b) Determine that the rule is needed to achieve the general goals
12 and specific objectives stated under (a) of this subsection, and
13 analyze alternatives to rule making and the consequences of not
14 adopting the rule;

15 (c) Provide notification in the notice of proposed rule making
16 under RCW 34.05.320 that a preliminary cost-benefit analysis is
17 available. The preliminary cost-benefit analysis must fulfill the
18 requirements of the cost-benefit analysis under (d) of this subsection.
19 If the agency files a supplemental notice under RCW 34.05.340, the

1 supplemental notice shall include notification that a revised
2 preliminary cost-benefit analysis is available. A final cost-benefit
3 analysis shall be available when the rule is adopted under RCW
4 34.05.360;

5 (d) Determine that the probable benefits of the rule are greater
6 than its probable costs, taking into account both the qualitative and
7 quantitative benefits and costs and the specific directives of the
8 statute being implemented;

9 (e) Determine, after considering alternative versions of the rule
10 and the analysis required under (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection,
11 that the rule being adopted is the least burdensome alternative for
12 those required to comply with it that will achieve the general goals
13 and specific objectives stated under (a) of this subsection;

14 (f) Determine that the rule does not require those to whom it
15 applies to take an action that violates requirements of another federal
16 or state law;

17 (g) Determine that the rule does not impose more stringent
18 performance requirements on private entities than on public entities
19 unless required to do so by federal or state law;

20 (h) Determine if the rule differs from any federal regulation or
21 statute applicable to the same activity or subject matter and, if so,
22 determine that the difference is justified by the following:

23 (i) A state statute that explicitly allows the agency to differ
24 from federal standards; or

25 (ii) Substantial evidence that the difference is necessary to
26 achieve the general goals and specific objectives stated under (a) of
27 this subsection; and

28 (i) Coordinate the rule, to the maximum extent practicable, with
29 other federal, state, and local laws applicable to the same activity or
30 subject matter.

31 (2) In making its determinations pursuant to subsection (1)(b)
32 through (h) of this section, the agency shall place in the rule-making
33 file documentation of sufficient quantity and quality so as to persuade
34 a reasonable person that the determinations are justified.

35 (3) Before adopting rules described in subsection (5) of this
36 section, an agency shall place in the rule-making file a rule
37 implementation plan for rules filed under each adopting order. The
38 plan shall describe how the agency intends to:

1 (a) Implement and enforce the rule, including a description of the
2 resources the agency intends to use;

3 (b) Inform and educate affected persons about the rule;

4 (c) Promote and assist voluntary compliance; and

5 (d) Evaluate whether the rule achieves the purpose for which it was
6 adopted, including, to the maximum extent practicable, the use of
7 interim milestones to assess progress and the use of objectively
8 measurable outcomes.

9 (4) After adopting a rule described in subsection (5) of this
10 section regulating the same activity or subject matter as another
11 provision of federal or state law, an agency shall do all of the
12 following:

13 (a) Coordinate implementation and enforcement of the rule with the
14 other federal and state entities regulating the same activity or
15 subject matter by making every effort to do one or more of the
16 following:

17 (i) Deferring to the other entity;

18 (ii) Designating a lead agency; or

19 (iii) Entering into an agreement with the other entities specifying
20 how the agency and entities will coordinate implementation and
21 enforcement.

22 If the agency is unable to comply with this subsection (4)(a), the
23 agency shall report to the legislature pursuant to (b) of this
24 subsection;

25 (b) Report to the joint administrative rules review committee:

26 (i) The existence of any overlap or duplication of other federal or
27 state laws, any differences from federal law, and any known overlap,
28 duplication, or conflict with local laws; and

29 (ii) Make recommendations for any legislation that may be necessary
30 to eliminate or mitigate any adverse effects of such overlap,
31 duplication, or difference.

32 (5)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, this section
33 applies to:

34 (i) Significant legislative rules of the departments of ecology,
35 labor and industries, health, revenue, social and health services, and
36 natural resources, the employment security department, the forest
37 practices board, the office of the insurance commissioner, and to the

1 legislative rules of the department of fish and wildlife implementing
2 chapter 77.55 RCW; and

3 (ii) Any rule of any agency, if this section is voluntarily made
4 applicable to the rule by the agency, or is made applicable to the rule
5 by a majority vote of the joint administrative rules review committee
6 within forty-five days of receiving the notice of proposed rule making
7 under RCW 34.05.320.

8 (b) This section does not apply to:

9 (i) Emergency rules adopted under RCW 34.05.350;

10 (ii) Rules relating only to internal governmental operations that
11 are not subject to violation by a nongovernment party;

12 (iii) Rules adopting or incorporating by reference without material
13 change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes,
14 rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs
15 other than those programs governing shorelines of statewide
16 significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national
17 consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the
18 material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and
19 conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule;

20 (iv) Rules that only correct typographical errors, make address or
21 name changes, or clarify language of a rule without changing its
22 effect;

23 (v) Rules the content of which is explicitly and specifically
24 dictated by statute;

25 (vi) Rules that set or adjust fees or rates pursuant to legislative
26 standards;

27 (vii) Rules of the department of social and health services
28 relating only to client medical or financial eligibility and rules
29 concerning liability for care of dependents; or

30 (viii) Rules of the department of revenue that adopt a uniform
31 expiration date for reseller permits as authorized in RCW 82.32.780 and
32 82.32.783.

33 (c) For purposes of this subsection:

34 (i) A "procedural rule" is a rule that adopts, amends, or repeals
35 (A) any procedure, practice, or requirement relating to any agency
36 hearings; (B) any filing or related process requirement for making
37 application to an agency for a license or permit; or (C) any policy

1 statement pertaining to the consistent internal operations of an
2 agency.

3 (ii) An "interpretive rule" is a rule, the violation of which does
4 not subject a person to a penalty or sanction, that sets forth the
5 agency's interpretation of statutory provisions it administers.

6 (iii) A "significant legislative rule" is a rule other than a
7 procedural or interpretive rule that (A) adopts substantive provisions
8 of law pursuant to delegated legislative authority, the violation of
9 which subjects a violator of such rule to a penalty or sanction; (B)
10 establishes, alters, or revokes any qualification or standard for the
11 issuance, suspension, or revocation of a license or permit; or (C)
12 adopts a new, or makes significant amendments to, a policy or
13 regulatory program.

14 (d) In the notice of proposed rule making under RCW 34.05.320, an
15 agency shall state whether this section applies to the proposed rule
16 pursuant to (a)(i) of this subsection, or if the agency will apply this
17 section voluntarily.

18 (6) By January 31, 1996, and by January 31st of each even-numbered
19 year thereafter, the office of (~~financial management~~) regulatory
20 assistance, after consulting with state agencies, counties, and cities,
21 and business, labor, and environmental organizations, shall report to
22 the governor and the legislature regarding the effects of this section
23 on the regulatory system in this state. The report shall document:

24 (a) The rules proposed to which this section applied and to the
25 extent possible, how compliance with this section affected the
26 substance of the rule, if any, that the agency ultimately adopted;

27 (b) The costs incurred by state agencies in complying with this
28 section;

29 (c) Any legal action maintained based upon the alleged failure of
30 any agency to comply with this section, the costs to the state of such
31 action, and the result;

32 (d) The extent to which this section has adversely affected the
33 capacity of agencies to fulfill their legislatively prescribed mission;

34 (e) The extent to which this section has improved the acceptability
35 of state rules to those regulated; and

36 (f) Any other information considered by the office of financial
37 management to be useful in evaluating the effect of this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
2 repealed:

3 (1) RCW 43.131.401 (Office of regulatory assistance--Termination)
4 and 2007 c 231 s 6, 2007 c 94 s 15, 2003 c 71 s 5, & 2002 c 153 s 13;
5 and

6 (2) RCW 43.131.402 (Office of regulatory assistance--Repeal) and
7 2010 c 162 s 7.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
10 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
11 June 29, 2011.

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