

HB 1978-S.E - DIGEST

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 6/25/13)

Creates an expedited environmental review and approval process for transportation projects that require preparation of an environmental impact statement and requires the department of transportation to use the process.

Requires certain state and local agencies to provide technical assistance to the department of transportation on accomplishing the project review and coordination activities.

Requires the department of transportation to: (1) Streamline the permitting process by developing and maintaining positive relationships with regulatory agencies and Indian tribes; and

(2) Continue its efforts to improve training and compliance.

Requires the department of ecology to: (1) Update certain rules for integrating use of national environmental policy act documents in decisions under the state environmental policy act;

(2) Update rule-based categorical exemptions for transportation maintenance activities; and

(3) Convene a work group to identify procedures to more effectively achieve certain objectives with regard to harmonizing local land use reviews with maintenance and improvement of state transportation facilities.