

**HB 2070-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Creates an expedited environmental review and approval process for transportation projects that require preparation of an environmental impact statement under the national environmental policy act 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;

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

(3) Use available technologies to minimize permit delays for, inform and interact with interested parties regarding, and optimize the effectiveness of proposed compensatory mitigation projects; and

(4) Consult with the department of fish and wildlife, appropriate local government, and interested tribes to prioritize fish passage barriers that maximize the value of investment; correct multiple fish passage barriers in whole streams rather than through individual, isolated projects; and maximize habitat recovery through coordination.