

ESB 5111 - S AMD 557

By Senator McCoy

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 43.157.005 and 2009 c 421 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The legislature declares that certain private investments, such
6 as investments for industrial development, environmental improvement,
7 and innovation activities, merit special designation (~~and treatment~~
8 ~~by governmental bodies when they are proposed~~) as projects of
9 statewide significance. Such investments bolster the economies of
10 their locale and impact the economy of the state as a whole. It is
11 the intention of the legislature to recognize projects of statewide
12 significance, to provide a mechanism for local governments and state
13 and federal agencies to perform a coordinated and comprehensive
14 review of such projects, and to encourage (~~local governments and~~
15 ~~state agencies to expedite~~) their expeditious completion.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.157.020 and 2009 c 421 s 3 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Counties and cities with development projects designated as
19 projects of statewide significance within their jurisdictions
20 (~~shall~~) must enter into an agreement with the office of regulatory
21 assistance and the project managers of projects of statewide
22 significance for: Expediting the completion of a project(~~s~~) of
23 statewide significance and completing a coordinated and comprehensive
24 review of a project of statewide significance. The agreement
25 (~~shall~~) must require:

26 (1) Expedited permit processing for the design and construction
27 of the project;

28 (2) Expedited environmental review processing;

29 (3) Expedited processing of requests for street, right-of-way,
30 (~~or~~) easement vacations, or other local administrative permits
31 necessary for the construction of the project;

1 (4) Participation of local officials on the team assembled under
2 the requirements of RCW 43.157.030(2)(b); and

3 (5) Such other actions or items as are deemed necessary by the
4 office of regulatory assistance for the design and construction of
5 the project but that do not alter any agency or local government
6 permitting authority or other existing statutory requirements.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1)(a) A legislative task force is
8 established to examine the creation of a single siting agency
9 empowered to establish guidelines for and implement a pre-SEPA
10 process that expedites and consolidates the permitting of large
11 manufacturing facilities, energy facilities, and transportation
12 facilities that are of statewide economic significance.

13 (b) For purposes of this section, "pre-SEPA process" means a
14 process conducted prior to the environmental review process under the
15 state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW.

16 (2)(a) The task force comprises twelve voting members, with one
17 member appointed by each of the chairs and ranking members of the
18 house and senate transportation committees, the house and senate
19 committees with jurisdiction over energy issues, the house committee
20 with jurisdiction over environmental issues, and the senate committee
21 with jurisdiction over economic development issues.

22 (b) The task force may consult with directors and representatives
23 of state permitting agencies, including but not limited to the
24 department of transportation, department of ecology, energy facility
25 site evaluation council, and the department of fish and wildlife, and
26 associations representing local governments.

27 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the
28 senate committee services and the house of representatives office of
29 program research.

30 (4) The task force must review previous legislative proposals
31 addressing the goal of establishing a comprehensive, expedited permit
32 decision-making process.

33 (5) By December 18, 2016, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
34 any findings and recommendations made by the task force must be
35 reported to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
36 legislature.

37 (6) This section expires July 1, 2017.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is known as the community
2 prosperity and revitalization act."

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3 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "transportation;" strike
4 the remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 43.157.005 and
5 43.157.020; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Makes the following changes as compared to the underlying bill:

(1) Removes provisions that changed the criteria used by the Department of Commerce for designating a project of statewide significance;

(2) Removes the provision requiring cities and counties to enter into an agreement with the Office of Regulatory Assistance that addresses consolidated processing of permit requests; and

(3) Establishes a legislative task force to examine the creation of a single siting agency empowered to establish guidelines for and implement a pre-SEPA process that expedites and consolidates the permitting of large manufacturing facilities, energy facilities, and transportation facilities that are of statewide economic significance.

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