CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1086**

Chapter 289, Laws of 2017

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS--TWO YEAR COMPLETION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/23/2017

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| Passed by the House April 13, 2017  Yeas 95 Nays 1  FRANK CHOPP  **Speaker of the House of Representatives**  Passed by the Senate April 11, 2017  Yeas 44 Nays 5  CYRUS HABIB  **President of the Senate** | CERTIFICATE  I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1086** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.  BERNARD DEAN  **Chief Clerk** |
| Approved May 16, 2017 10:02 AM | May 16, 2017 |
| JAY INSLEE  **Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State**  **State of Washington** |

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1086**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2017 Regular Session

**State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session**

**By** House Environment (originally sponsored by Representatives Blake, J. Walsh, Springer, Wilcox, and Hargrove)

AN ACT Relating to promoting the completion of environmental impact statements within two years; adding a new section to chapter 43.21C RCW; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature finds that the analysis of environmental impacts required under the state environmental policy act adds value to government decision-making processes in Washington state and helps minimize the potential environmental harm coming from those government decisions. However, the legislature also recognizes that excessive delays in the environmental impact analysis process adds uncertainty and burdensome costs to those seeking to do business in the state of Washington. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to promote timely completion of state environmental policy act processes. In doing so, the legislature intends to restore balance between the need to carefully consider environmental impacts and the need to maintain the economic competitiveness of state businesses.

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

(1) A lead agency shall aspire to prepare a final environmental impact statement required by RCW 43.21C.030(2) in as expeditious a manner as possible while not compromising the integrity of the analysis.

(a) For even the most complex government decisions associated with a broad scope of possible environmental impacts, a lead agency shall aspire to prepare a final environmental impact statement required by RCW 43.21C.030(2) within twenty-four months of a threshold determination of a probable significant, adverse environmental impact.

(b) Wherever possible, a lead agency shall aspire to far outpace the twenty-four month time limit established in this section for more commonplace government decisions associated with narrower and more easily identifiable environmental impacts.

(2) Beginning December 31, 2018, and every two years thereafter, the department of ecology must submit a report on the environmental impact statements produced by state agencies and local governments to the appropriate committees of the legislature. The report must include data on the average time, and document the range of time, it took to complete environmental impact statements within the previous two years.

(3) Nothing in this section creates any civil liability for a lead agency or creates a new cause of action against a lead agency.

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Passed by the House April 13, 2017.

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2017.

Approved by the Governor May 16, 2017.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 2017.