
SENATE BILL 5621

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Hobbs, Rivers, Sheldon, Ericksen, Warnick,
Honeyford, Becker, Braun, and Wilson

Read first time 02/01/17. Referred to Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to projects of statewide significance for
2 economic development and transportation; amending RCW 43.157.005 and
3 43.157.020; reenacting and amending RCW 43.157.010; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.157.005 and 2009 c 421 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

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

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.157.010 and 2012 c 63 s 2 are each reenacted and
2 amended to read as follows:

3 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter and
4 RCW 28A.525.166, (~~(28B.76.210, 28C.18.080,)~~) 43.21A.350, and
5 90.58.100, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

6 (1) "Applicant" means a person applying to the department for
7 designation of a development project as a project of statewide
8 significance.

9 (2) "Aviation biofuels production facility" means a facility
10 primarily for the processing of nonfossil biogenic feedstocks to
11 produce aviation fuels that meet the fuel quality technical standards
12 of the American society for testing materials for aviation fuels and
13 coproducts.

14 (3) "Department" means the department of commerce.

15 (4) "Manufacturing" (~~shall have~~) has the meaning assigned it in
16 RCW 82.62.010.

17 (5)(a) "Project of statewide significance" means:

18 (i) A border crossing project that involves both private and
19 public investments carried out in conjunction with adjacent states or
20 provinces;

21 (ii) A development project that will provide a net environmental
22 benefit to the state or a region of the state;

23 (iii) A development project in furtherance of the
24 commercialization of innovations;

25 (iv) A private industrial development with private capital
26 investment in manufacturing, transportation, development of a
27 renewable resource, environmental conservation or efficiency, or
28 research and development; or

29 (v) An aviation biofuels production facility.

30 (b) To qualify for designation under RCW 43.157.030 as a project
31 of statewide significance:

32 (i) The project must be completed after January 1, 2009;

33 (ii) The applicant must submit an application to the department
34 for designation as a project of statewide significance (~~to the~~
35 ~~department of commerce~~); and

36 (iii) Except for an aviation biofuels production facility, the
37 project must have:

38 (A) In counties with a population less than or equal to twenty
39 thousand, a capital investment of five million dollars;

1 (B) In counties with a population greater than twenty thousand
2 but no more than fifty thousand, a capital investment of ten million
3 dollars;

4 (C) In counties with a population greater than fifty thousand but
5 no more than one hundred thousand, a capital investment of fifteen
6 million dollars;

7 (D) In counties with a population greater than one hundred
8 thousand but no more than two hundred thousand, a capital investment
9 of twenty million dollars;

10 (E) In counties with a population greater than two hundred
11 thousand but no more than four hundred thousand, a capital investment
12 of thirty million dollars;

13 (F) In counties with a population greater than four hundred
14 thousand but no more than one million, a capital investment of forty
15 million dollars;

16 (G) In counties with a population greater than one million, a
17 capital investment of fifty million dollars;

18 (H) In rural counties as defined by RCW 82.14.370, projected
19 full-time employment positions after completion of construction of
20 (~~(fifty)~~) thirty or greater;

21 (I) In counties other than rural counties as defined by RCW
22 82.14.370, projected full-time employment positions after completion
23 of construction of (~~(one hundred)~~) seventy or greater; (~~(or)~~)

24 (J) If the project will create jobs in both rural and nonrural
25 counties, projected full-time employment positions after completion
26 of construction of seventy or greater; or

27 (K) Been qualified by the director of the department as a project
28 of statewide significance either because:

29 (I) The economic circumstances of the county or region merit the
30 additional assistance such designation will bring;

31 (II) The impact on a county or region due to the size and
32 complexity of the project merits such designation;

33 (III) The project resulted from or is in furtherance of
34 innovation activities at a public research institution in the state
35 or is in or resulted from innovation activities within an innovation
36 partnership zone; or

37 (IV) The project will provide a net environmental benefit as
38 evidenced by plans for design and construction under green building
39 standards or for the creation of renewable energy technology or
40 components or under other environmental criteria established by the

1 director in consultation with the director of the department of
2 ecology.

3 (c) A project may be qualified under (b)(iii)(K) of this
4 subsection (5)((~~b~~)(~~iii~~)(~~J~~)) only after consultation on the
5 availability of staff resources of the office of regulatory
6 assistance.

7 (6) "Research and development" (~~shall have~~) has the meaning
8 assigned it in RCW 82.62.010.

9 (7) "Renewable resource" means (a) wind; (b) solar energy; (c)
10 geothermal energy; (d) landfill gas; (e) gas from sewage treatment
11 facilities; (f) biodiesel fuel as defined in RCW 82.29A.135 that is
12 not derived from crops raised on land cleared from old growth or
13 first-growth forests where the clearing occurred after December 7,
14 2006; or (g) biomass energy.

15 (8) "Transportation" means a project to improve or repair a
16 highway or road, approaches to a highway, highway ramps, and parking
17 facilities. Transportation does not include conveyance of
18 construction materials.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.157.020 and 2009 c 421 s 3 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

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

29 (1) Expedited permit processing for the design and construction
30 of the project;

31 (2) Expedited environmental review processing;

32 (3) Expedited and consolidated processing of requests for street,
33 right-of-way, (~~or~~) easement vacations, or other local
34 administrative permits necessary for the construction of the project;

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

37 (5) Such other actions or items as are deemed necessary by the
38 office of regulatory assistance for the design and construction of

1 the project but that do not alter any agency or local government
2 permitting authority or other existing statutory requirements.

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

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