ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1902

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Richards, Stuebe, Zahn, Dent, Timmons, Barkis, Paul, Nance, Reed, Ramel, Bernbaum, Wylie, Taylor, Parshley, Simmons, Shavers, Salahuddin, and Hill)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

- AN ACT Relating to convening a work group regarding the 1 2 streamlining of permitting for transportation projects; creating a
- 3 new section; and providing an expiration date.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of transportation, in 5 6 consultation with the department of ecology, shall convene a work 7 group to develop recommendations to streamline the permitting of transportation projects, by aligning priorities, legal requirements, 8 9 timelines, processing, and interests, in permitting.
- 10 (2) The work group shall consist of the following members:
- 11 (a) One representative from the department of transportation, to 12 be appointed by the secretary of the department;
- 13 (b) One representative from the department of ecology, to be 14 appointed by the director of the department;
- (c) One representative from the department of fish and wildlife, 15 16 to be appointed by the director of the department;
- 17 (d) One representative from the department of commerce, to be appointed by the director of the department; 18
- 19 (e) One representative from the office of equity, to be appointed by the director of the office; 20
- 21 (f) One representative from the association of Washington cities;

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- 1 (g) One representative from the Washington state association of counties;
- 3 (h) One representative from the Washington public ports 4 association;
- 5 (i) One representative from an organization representing general contractors;
- 7 (j) One representative from a statewide organization representing 8 construction trades labor;
- 9 (k) One representative from the Washington state transit 10 association;
- 11 (1) One representative from the United States army corps of 12 engineers, to be invited by the secretary of the department of 13 transportation;
- 14 (m) One representative of the consultant engineering community; 15 and
- 16 (n) At least one, but not limited to, representative from tribes, 17 and additional coordination from the governor's office of Indian 18 affairs.
- 19 (3) The work group shall develop recommendations to reduce 20 project costs and the time required from project conception to 21 project completion. These recommendations must ensure that all 22 appropriate environmental and regulatory protections are maintained.
- 23 (4) Staff support to the work group must be provided by the department of transportation.
- (5) The work group shall convene its first meeting by October 1, 2025, and shall submit a report to the legislature detailing its work and any recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation, by November 1, 2026.
- 29 (6) This section expires December 31, 2026.

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