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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2594**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2018 Regular Session**

**By** House Technology & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Hudgins, and Wylie)

1       AN ACT Relating to studying the feasibility of a statewide  
2 infrastructure authority; creating new sections; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
6 develop a strategy to make long-term investments in infrastructure  
7 for the purposes of information networks, transportation, energy,  
8 water, and sewer. Of immediate concern is the state's need for  
9 infrastructure investments related to fiber broadband, high-speed  
10 rail, and long haul air cargo facilities. The legislature intends to  
11 focus these investments on infrastructure that will affect multiple  
12 jurisdictions.

13       To drive this process, the legislature intends to establish a  
14 joint select committee to conduct a feasibility study to determine  
15 the best governing structure, dedicated funding source, initial list  
16 of performance-based projects, and recommendations for public-private  
17 partnerships to achieve the infrastructure goals of the legislature.

18       Establishing a governing structure, an infrastructure authority,  
19 would allow for the leveraging of existing or new funding mechanisms  
20 and create opportunities for more efficient coordination of statewide  
21 infrastructure projects, drive long-term economic competitiveness on

1 both a state and global level, contribute toward the nation's  
2 economic and national security interests, and provide equal access to  
3 economic opportunity for all the state's citizens.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A joint select committee on  
5 infrastructure is established, with members as provided in this  
6 subsection.

7 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from  
8 each of the largest caucuses of the senate.

9 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint  
10 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
11 representatives.

12 (iii) At least two members from each caucus must be a member of  
13 the house of representatives and senate standing committees on  
14 transportation. Members appointed from the standing committees on  
15 transportation must include the chairs of the house of  
16 representatives and senate standing committees on transportation.

17 (iv) At least two members from each caucus must be a member of  
18 the house of representatives and senate standing committees on  
19 economic development. Members appointed from the standing committees  
20 on economic development must include the chairs of the house of  
21 representatives and senate standing committees on economic  
22 development.

23 (b) The committee cochairs must be the house of representatives  
24 and senate chairs of the standing economic development committees.

25 (2) The committee must complete a study to:

26 (a) Identify integrated infrastructure needs across the state,  
27 including needs related to fiber broadband, high-speed rail, and long  
28 haul air cargo;

29 (b) Assess potential organizational models for the new  
30 infrastructure authority;

31 (c) Explore alternative organizational and funding models that  
32 may have the capacity to facilitate meeting identified infrastructure  
33 development needs of the state;

34 (d) Evaluate the ability of the identified organizational models  
35 to engage in strategic long-term economic development investments;

36 (e) Identify opportunities to leverage new and existing sources  
37 of funding that may be available for infrastructure development,  
38 including public-private partnerships;

1 (f) Explore efficient ways to obtain and store new and existing  
2 data necessary to create digital cross-system infrastructure maps to  
3 be created and used by the new infrastructure authority to identify  
4 the state's long-term infrastructure needs and develop state  
5 priorities around these needs, particularly identifying areas in need  
6 of fiber infrastructure for broadband backhaul services;

7 (g) Consider any state and federal legal aspects of  
8 organizational and funding models; and data collection and use  
9 identified pursuant to this section, including consideration of how  
10 to structure the role of the state or any subdivision of the state in  
11 a manner that is consistent with the Constitution of the state of  
12 Washington and how to legally obtain and store data necessary for the  
13 mapping described in (f) of this subsection;

14 (h) Describe any legislation that may be necessary to implement  
15 the infrastructure authority and other recommendations; and

16 (i) Identify an initial list of potential performance-based  
17 infrastructure projects.

18 (3) Staff support for the committee must be provided by senate  
19 committee services and the house of representatives office of program  
20 research.

21 (4) Legislative members of the committee are reimbursed for  
22 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
23 members are not entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses if they  
24 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,  
25 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for  
26 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

27 (5) Expenses of the committee must be paid jointly by the senate  
28 and house of representatives. Committee expenditures are subject to  
29 approval by the senate facilities and operations committee and house  
30 of representatives executive rules committee, or their successor.

31 (6) The committee may contract with additional persons who have  
32 specific technical expertise if the expertise is necessary to carry  
33 out the mandates of the study. The committee may enter into such  
34 contract only if an appropriation is provided specifically for this  
35 purpose.

36 (7) The committee, where appropriate, may consult with  
37 individuals from the public and private sector or ask individuals to  
38 establish an advisory committee. Members of such an advisory  
39 committee are not entitled to expense reimbursement.

1           (8) The committee must report its findings and recommendations to  
2 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.  
3           (9) This section expires January 1, 2020.

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