
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7000

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNING THE STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS.

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes in laws related to the state plan of conservation and development (POCD). Among other things, it generally raises, from \$200,000 to \$1 million (adjusted for inflation regularly), the threshold at which certain state agency capital projects and grant authorizations must be consistent with the state POCD. Generally, these same projects are also deemed “growth-related projects” under current law.

Currently, (1) the state POCD must identify the boundaries for priority funding areas (PFAs) and (2) when state agencies fund or undertake a growth-related project, the project must be located in a priority funding area, unless the agency complies with the statutory exception process. The bill eliminates both of these requirements, among other PFA-related requirements.

The POCD is a statement of the state’s development, resource management, and public investment policies. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) develops the plan, which goes before the legislature for hearings and approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§ 1 — STATE AGENCY SPENDING MUST CONFORM TO POCD

Higher Threshold and Indexing to Inflation

Currently, the following activities, if they cost more than \$200,000, and are undertaken by a state agency with state or federal funds, must be consistent with the state POCD:

1. acquiring real property;
2. developing or improving real property;
3. acquiring public transportation facilities or equipment; and
4. authorizing state grants, with certain exceptions, if the grant application was not pending on July 1, 1991, to (a) acquire, develop, or improve real property or (b) acquire public transportation equipment or facilities.

The bill increases the threshold from \$200,000 to \$1 million. The new threshold applies to state agencies' grant authorizations (the last listed item) only if the application is made on or after October 1, 2025.

By January 1, 2026, and every five years after that, the bill requires the secretary to adjust the thresholds by the percentage change in the Producer Price Index by Commodity: Construction (Partial) (WPU80), not seasonally adjusted, or its successor index, as calculated by the United States Department of Labor, over the preceding five calendar years, rounded to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars. The secretary must publish the adjusted threshold on OPM's website.

Advisory Statements

Current law requires agencies undertaking covered projects to request and receive an advisory statement from OPM on the project's conformity with the POCD. The bill eliminates this requirement and instead requires agencies to submit to OPM a notice explaining how their project conforms to the POCD. It allows agencies to consult with the OPM secretary prior to submitting the notice.

§§ 2-5 — ELIMINATION OF PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS

The bill repeals references to PFAs and related requirements. Currently, these are areas that OPM delineates as part of the POCD, considering factors such as whether an area is a regional center, growth or conservation area, or located in a distressed municipality. Under the bill, OPM is no longer required to identify PFAs.

Most notably, current law requires growth-related projects (see above) to be undertaken in PFAs, with exceptions. In eliminating the PFA framework, the bill correspondingly eliminates this requirement.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/07/2025)