**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5282**

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONTINUING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING THE STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.***

## 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.) The bill also removes acquiring public transportation equipment or facilities from the list of grants and projects that must be consistent with the POCD.

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, 2026

## § 1 — STATE AGENCY SPENDING MUST CONFORM TO POCD

### *Higher Threshold and Indexing to Inflation*

Currently, the following projects, 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 to (a) acquire, develop, or improve real property or (b) acquire public transportation equipment or facilities.

The bill (1) removes public transportation facilities and equipment from the list of covered projects and grant purposes and (2) increases the cost threshold for all other covered projects to more than $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, 2026.

By January 1, 2027, and every five years after that, the bill requires the OPM secretary to adjust the threshold 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 $100. 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 grant or project's conformity with the POCD. The bill eliminates this requirement and instead requires agencies to give OPM a notice explaining how their grant or project conforms to the POCD. It allows agencies to consult with the OPM secretary before 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 specifies 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 no longer must identify PFAs.

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 Substitute
Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/06/2026)