
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 265 (File 466, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCEDURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR BUSINESS INITIATION, EXPANSION OR NEW PRODUCTION.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to provide certain services to businesses that request a meeting with the department before applying for permits necessary for specified business purposes (i.e., starting or expanding a business or initiating a new manufacturing production line). Businesses may request such a meeting in person, in writing, by phone, or through an electronic form, which DEEP must post on its website.

Within 30 days after receiving a pre-application meeting request, the DEEP commissioner must make reasonable efforts to (1) schedule a meeting with the requestor, (2) identify the information DEEP needs to process the permit applications for which the meeting was requested, and (3) provide the requestor with an estimated final decision date for those applications. After making final decisions on such applications, DEEP must survey each business that requested a pre-application meeting to collect information on the business's experience with the pre-application and permitting process.

The bill requires DEEP to include in its annual report to the legislature (1) a summary of the information collected from the survey described above, (2) the average time for processing permit applications discussed in pre-application meetings, (3) the number of violations DEEP's environmental quality division investigated in the previous fiscal year, and (4) the number of those violations that the division resolved without levying a fine.

*Senate Amendment "A", among other things, (1) requires DEEP to

provide services only to businesses that request a pre-application meeting, rather than any business that indicates on the application that the permit is for a specified business purpose; (2) removes a provision requiring DEEP to modify its permit application forms; and (3) requires DEEP to include information about certain violations and fines in its annual report.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/22/2018)