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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2414**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2016 Regular Session**

**By** House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Wylie, Pike, Moeller, Harris, Orcutt, Vick, Wilson, and McBride)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a bistate bridge project  
2 legislative work group; and adding a new section to chapter 47.01  
3 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The legislature finds that both Washington and Oregon  
8 recognize the need for improving the capacity of Interstate 5  
9 adjacent to and over the Columbia river and that the legislatures of  
10 each state need basic oversight of the process. The legislature  
11 recognizes that the development of a bistate bridge project takes  
12 years of hard work and difficult decisions and that to achieve  
13 development of a successful bistate bridge project it must be pursued  
14 in a manner that will build and maintain bistate trust and positive  
15 working relationships to ensure economic growth and productivity in  
16 the entire region before reaching a federal record of decision. The  
17 legislature also recognizes that in-area legislators will be called  
18 upon to seek funding of any project developed and, therefore, must be  
19 involved in the development of the project from the beginning.

20 (b) The legislature further finds that to accomplish the findings  
21 in (a) of this subsection it is necessary to form a bistate,

1 bipartisan bridge project legislative work group, and that it may be  
2 beneficial to consult with the William D. Ruckelshaus center and the  
3 Oregon consensus center to act as neutral resources to gather input,  
4 provide scoping of potential stakeholders to engage diverse  
5 interests, and help facilitate the creation of the work group.  
6 Although the primary purpose of this facilitated effort is to  
7 establish a process that includes appropriate legislative  
8 involvement, it is not the intention to exclude stakeholders or  
9 existing experts or useful work products already established. The  
10 work group will define and recommend the ongoing legislative role in  
11 moving forward with the bistate bridge project and report that  
12 recommendation to the legislature for any required action.

13 (2) The bistate bridge project legislative work group is created  
14 and must facilitate strong public participation and input throughout  
15 the initial development stages to identify the most affordable,  
16 efficient project that improves freight mobility and safety, relieves  
17 traffic congestion, and meets the future needs of the region and the  
18 transportation corridor.

19 (3) The bistate bridge project legislative work group must  
20 consist of eight bipartisan, bicameral members from each of the  
21 Washington and Oregon state legislatures who represent the districts  
22 in the same region as the project, with a preference for members who  
23 serve on their respective transportation committees. The caucus  
24 leaders of the house and senate shall appoint an equal number of  
25 members to serve on the work group. Each legislative member must have  
26 an equal vote on matters considered by the work group. The work group  
27 must consider options for capacity, safety, sufficiency, public  
28 support, and cost-effectiveness in developing a solution to meet the  
29 needs of the corridor. To the extent feasible, the design must  
30 incorporate existing infrastructure and allow for its future  
31 maintenance and improvement.

32 (4) Local, regional, technical, legal, and other planning and  
33 transportation resources and stakeholders required for such a project  
34 may not be supplanted or precluded from appropriate involvement, but  
35 may not have any voting powers.

36 (5) By December 1, 2017, the bistate bridge project legislative  
37 work group must report its recommendations to the transportation

1 committees of the legislature and provide annual updates on the  
2 project to the legislature thereafter until the project is complete.

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