



# SENATE BILL 778: DOT to study SEPA reform impacts.

2016-2017 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Transportation	<b>Date:</b>	May 11, 2016
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Wade, Brock, B. Jackson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Wendy Ray
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition S778-CSSU-40		Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 778 would direct the Department of Transportation to study the fiscal impact of reforms passed in 2015 to the State Environmental Policy Act, as recommended by the Environmental Review Commission.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H1003, as introduced by Rep. Dixon, which is currently in House Transportation.]

**CURRENT LAW:** House Bill 795 (S.L. 2015-90) was enacted in 2015 to reform the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The bill increased the thresholds for when SEPA applies, increased the number of exemptions from the Act, and otherwise amended the Act.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS for Senate Bill 778 would direct the Department of Transportation to study the impact of the SEPA reforms enacted in S.L. 2015-90 on transportation projects. Specifically, the Department would be required to assess cost savings resulting from shortening of project time lines.

The Department must report the results of the study to the Environmental Review Commission and to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee by December 1, 2016, including any recommendations for other changes that would result in significant cost savings.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would be effective when it becomes law.

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