

ALERT UPDATE: Military Granted Priority in Land Use Planning
January 30, 2018
House Bill 2341 and Senate Bill 6456
Concerning the protection of military installations operated by the United States
armed services from incompatible development.

(1) Full text - original bill:

<http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2341.pdf>

(2) Proposed Substitute house bill in house Environment Committee:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=7ylmSUu9ROk&att=false>

SUMMARY OF HB 2341 and SB 6456 -Original

This bill gives final say of land use to military base commanders and creates a structure to funnel \$25 million per budget cycle to help the military expand its activities.

- Commanders of military installations give feedback to city/county land use plans, and the city/county *MUST ADOPT* the restrictions cited by the commander to ensure compatibility between the land use plans and any present *or future* military mission. The city/county has no recourse, but to adopt whatever the commander decides.
- *All* military installations qualify for this privilege regardless of the size or activity level. Installations with zero personnel assigned qualify.
- *Any* jurisdiction with a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) including a military installation *MUST ADOPT* all recommendations from the study. These studies were performed with the assumption that adoption would follow normal due process procedures. This provision skips due process.
- Proposed projects enabling military mission compatibility may apply for partial funding from a \$25 million fund to be administered by the Department of Commerce. Uses: Acquire property using Eminent Domain provisions; build low-income housing for enlisted military

THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL IS STILL ALIVE IN THE SENATE: Local Government Committee

UPDATE: Proposed Substitute Bill authored in the House Environment Committee

This proposed substitute bill may be voted out of committee onto the House floor THIS WEEK. The provisions are improved, however, considerably expand the influence of military commanders on local land use planning and uses state tax dollars to encourage US military expansion in Washington.

- City/county jurisdictions must notify military commanders of proposed land use actions that *may interfere* with the installation's current *or future* missions *in the vicinity* of the military installation. The city/county makes the final determination of the compatibility and must justify the decision.
- All military installations qualify for this privilege regardless of the size or activity level. Installations with zero personnel assigned qualify.
- Proposed projects enabling military mission compatibility may apply for partial funding from a \$25 million fund to be administered by the Department of Commerce. Uses: Acquire property using Eminent Domain provisions; recovery or protection of endangered species, local infrastructure, provide low-income housing for enlisted personnel, and retrofit existing uses to be compatible with existing military operations.

We need MANY legislative districts involved or it will sneak past us.

Tell your friends across the state - this will take a broad effort to defeat

Suggested: Response 1

I'm all for creating more jobs. However, it seems that in our enthusiasm to attract military jobs, we are ignoring the citizens' desires across the state. Yes, jobs are important. And so is our way of life and the environment.

The wording in HB2341/SB 6456 **REQUIRES** land use planning to incorporate any present or future missions of the military bases anywhere in the state - for *any reason* deemed appropriate by military base commanders. This means that the military mission trumps the local citizens' desires. This seems backwards. Perhaps the mission the base commander has been assigned is incompatible with the community. What then?

The wording and implications of the bill seem to put the military in charge instead of the people the military are protecting. This is wrong.

Where is the process where to hold the military accountable to the citizens?

What if the citizens don't want that mission in their community for a variety of health, economic and environmental issues?

Where are citizen and community priorities taken into account?

Considering the health, economic and environmental impact of giving the military a blank check to use our lands however they see fit, please OPPOSE HB2341 / SB 6456.

Suggested Response 2

This bill is touted as being "friendly to the military" when it is actually a further federal encroachment on the rights of individual citizens and the states. The backers are being lobbied by a beltway consulting group whose mission is to make the states and individuals subservient to the federal government and the military. Base commanders should not have any right to dictate land use - this is up to the local governments and their citizens. Giving up this right to support "present and future" military missions seems foolhardy and a seizure of land use rights by the federal government.

Defeat this ill-conceived bill and let the citizens determine their own land use restrictions voluntarily -not through legislative trickery.

Write to committee members as well as your own Representatives

House Environment Committee members:

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