

ESHB 1457 Compared to ESSB 5439
Facilitating Broadband and WSDOT

Ref. ID	Topic	ESHB 1457	ESSB 5439	Differences
1	Bill Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AN ACT Relating to facilitating the installation of broadband facilities on limited access highways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AN ACT Relating to facilitating the coordinated installation of broadband along state highways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House bill is more specific to limited access highways.
2	Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intent section states that a critical goal of the state is using the transportation system to facilitate and accelerate access to broadband networks. (Sec. 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intent section lists the goals associated with increasing broadband access, including specified benefits to the transportation system. (Sec. 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different intent language for each bill.
3	State Goals for Highway Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporates broadband into critical goals of state's infrastructure and authorizes right-of-way usage on limited access highways. (Sec. 2(2) and Sec. 2(3)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporates broadband into critical goals of state's infrastructure and authorizes right-of-way usage on limited access highways. (Sec. 6(2) and Sec. 6(3)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
4	Coordination for Broadband Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandates a WSDOT policy that requires WSDOT to provide broadband facility owners with information about planned limited access highway projects. (Sec. 2(3)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandates a WSDOT policy that requires WSDOT to provide broadband facility owners with information about planned state highway projects. (Sec. 5(1) and Sec. 6(3)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination applies to limited access highway projects only in the House bill, and to all planned state highway projects in the Senate bill.
5	JTC Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to appropriations, requires a JTC study to recommend a WSDOT strategy for broadband facilities, planning and financing tools, opportunities for partnerships, and an examination of state and federal laws that could hinder implementation. Study must also address unserved/underserved prioritization and evaluation of when broadband conduit installation in highways is recommended. Study due date of Jan. 1, 2022. (Sec. 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to appropriations, requires a JTC study to recommend a WSDOT strategy for broadband facilities, planning and financing tools, opportunities for partnerships, and an examination of state and federal laws that could hinder implementation. (Sec. 7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House bill study includes unserved/ underserved prioritization and evaluation of when highway installation is recommended, and has a study due date of Jan. 1, 2022.

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6	State Broadband Office (SBO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires SBO to serve needs of transportation system as part of its broadband efforts. (Sec. 2) Requires State Broadband Office (SBO) to consider project coordination logistics when developing plans or strategies for broadband deployment. (Sec. 3(2)) Adds WSDOT explicitly to list of state agencies SBO may collaborate with. (Sec. 3(5)) Requires SBO to provide a summary of its activities coordinating broadband infrastructure with WSDOT in its currently mandated biennial reports. (Sec. 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House bill does not modify State Broadband Office sections of law.
7	Broadband Installation by WSDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes WSDOT to have its contractors install broadband conduit as part of a transportation project if no broadband facility owners can or would like to do so in coordination with WSDOT. (Sec. 5(2)) States the purpose for WSDOT's installation of conduit is to benefit the transportation system by reducing future traffic impacts, supporting vehicle mile travel goals by enabling more teleworking, and preparing for autonomous vehicles. (Sec. 5(2)) Requires broadband facility owners to obtain a franchise granted by WSDOT (following the process for utilities currently) before installing broadband facilities within WSDOT conduit. (Sec. 5(3)) Requires that costs associated with broadband facility installation by a broadband facility owner to be borne by the broadband facility owner. (Sec. 5(3)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House bill does not address broadband installation by WSDOT.
8	Broadband Installation by Broadband Facility Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes WSDOT to grant franchises to use a state highway for construction and maintenance of fiber optic facilities. (Sec. 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes WSDOT to grant franchises to use a state highway for construction and maintenance of fiber optic facilities. (Sec. 8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None