
SENATE BILL 5222

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Skratek, Erwin, Bluechel, M. Rasmussen, Deccio, Winsley and Barr

Read first time 01/18/93. Referred to Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to urban/rural economic partnerships; amending RCW
2 43.63A.560; adding new sections to chapter 43.63A RCW; and creating new
3 sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Economic vitality is an integral component
6 of each community in the state of Washington and is necessary to ensure
7 a high standard of living and job opportunities for each citizen of the
8 state. During the 1980's, the Puget Sound region has experienced
9 dramatic growth as compared to a moderate increase or even economic
10 decline in rural parts of the state. This economic disparity has
11 provided a unique opportunity for a meaningful economic partnership
12 between both areas of Washington that will assist in transferring
13 excessive business growth in the Puget Sound to rural areas that are in
14 need of increased business activity. The intent of this act in
15 establishing this partnership is to improve the quality of life across
16 Washington and provide quality job opportunities for each citizen of
17 the state.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.63A.560 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 67 are each
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The department shall administer a grant program which makes
4 grants to (~~local~~) nonprofit organizations for rural economic
5 development or for sharing economic growth outside the Puget Sound
6 region. The grants shall be used to: (a) Develop urban-rural links;
7 (b) build local capacity for economic growth; (~~or~~) (c) improve the
8 export of products or services from rural areas to locations outside
9 the United States; or (d) assist business in high-growth urban areas to
10 locate new or expanded business operations in rural communities
11 throughout the state.

12 (2) The department shall consult with, and if necessary form an
13 advisory committee including, a diverse group of private sector
14 representatives including, but not limited to, major corporations,
15 commercial financial institutions, venture capitalists, small
16 businesses, natural resource businesses, and developers to determine
17 what opportunities for new investment and business growth might be
18 available for areas outside high-growth counties. The department shall
19 also consult with the department of trade and economic development.
20 The department shall seek to maximize and link new investment
21 opportunities to grant projects under this section.

22 (3) The department shall establish a project within the grant
23 program to assist businesses in high-growth urban areas in the Puget
24 Sound region to locate new or expanded business operations in rural
25 communities throughout the state. The department shall endeavor to
26 establish contracts with local governments, including local planning
27 departments, nonprofit agencies, or for-profit corporations that wish
28 to provide businesses in their high growth urban areas alternative
29 locations. The department may also establish contracts with local
30 governments including planning departments, nonprofit agencies, or for-
31 profit corporations that wish to assist businesses in locating in their
32 rural communities.

33 (4) The department may enact rules to carry out this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
35 to read as follows:

36 The department shall develop contract provisions in consultation
37 with local governments, nonprofit agencies, or for-profit corporations
38 that outline the following: The scope and degree of services provided

1 to new or expanding businesses; the time frame in which services are
2 provided to businesses; the responsibility of urban and rural
3 contractors to ensure complementary, nonduplicative services; and
4 guidelines for evaluating effectiveness of the program.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The department, in consultation and advice of the departments of
8 trade and economic development, employment security, and revenue, shall
9 provide the contract parties with general information on possible rural
10 industrial sites, local labor market information, and local economic
11 conditions.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall report to the
13 legislature by January 1, 1994, on the effectiveness of the project
14 under RCW 43.63A.560(3) and make recommendations on whether the project
15 should be continued, maintained, or expanded.

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