
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6164

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Sheldon, Bluechel, Skratek, Williams,
Erwin and M. Rasmussen)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to rural economic development; adding a new section
2 to chapter 43.330 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the tremendous
6 advances in communication and information technologies, and radical
7 changes in the way these technologies can provide services, hold
8 promise for distressed rural communities. Communication technologies
9 can reduce burdens of space and distance, factors that disadvantage
10 rural areas, and provide rural communities with an equal opportunity to
11 compete in national and international marketplaces. For rural
12 communities to be able to fully exploit telecommunications technologies
13 for economic development, access to these services on a level found in
14 urban areas is critical.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 The department shall serve as an advocate of telecommunications
18 policies which further rural economic development goals.

1 The department shall develop strategies to:

2 (1) Increase awareness of the linkages between telecommunications
3 and rural economic development. The department shall consider
4 sponsoring, in cooperation with the utilities and transportation
5 commission, regional workshops to share information about innovative
6 uses of telecommunications and identify the telecommunications needs of
7 rural communities;

8 (2) Educate rural communities and small business on the uses of
9 telecommunications services;

10 (3) Integrate a telecommunications component into small business
11 assistance and local capacity building efforts;

12 (4) Ensure that work forces in rural communities are trained to
13 meet the telecommunications needs of rural businesses. The department
14 shall work with the state board for community and technical colleges to
15 develop telecommunications training courses; and

16 (5) Assist rural communities, hospitals, and small businesses
17 aggregate demand to acquire telecommunications services unavailable to
18 them individually.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1994.

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