
HOUSE BILL 2777

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Clibborn, Ericksen, Ericks, Hinkle, O'Brien, Morrell, Sells, Sullivan, McIntire, Loomis, Haigh, Simpson, and Kelley

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to assisting small communities in planning for new
2 growth and development; adding new sections to chapter 35.21 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Many cities and towns located in the more
6 rural areas of the state are beginning to experience the opportunities
7 and challenges associated with unprecedented levels of growth and new
8 development. These communities typically lack the resources necessary
9 to adequately plan and prepare for essential infrastructure needed to
10 accommodate this new growth. Effective planning at the local level
11 promotes economic well-being and quality of life in all communities.
12 It is the intent of the legislature to assist eligible small towns and
13 cities in planning for the infrastructure necessary to support new
14 growth and development.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The department of community, trade, and economic development
18 shall create and monitor a small communities infrastructure planning

1 grant program, in which the department shall select grant recipients
2 and make grant awards based on the eligibility criteria set forth in
3 subsection (2) of this section. The department shall use existing
4 staff and resources to administer this program.

5 (2)(a) Only those cities and towns having a population of less than
6 seven thousand five hundred, as determined by the office of financial
7 management, and located in rural areas of the state are eligible to
8 receive grant awards under this program.

9 (b) Eligible activities for cities and towns to receive grant
10 awards include:

11 (i) Transportation, utility, and capital facilities planning;

12 (ii) Multijurisdictional infrastructure planning, including joint
13 planning between local jurisdictions and the private sector;

14 (iii) Updating comprehensive plans and development regulations
15 consistent with this grant program; and

16 (iv) Other planning and technical assistance activities consistent
17 with the purposes of this grant program.

18 (c) Priority must be given to those applicants seeking grant awards
19 to support activities meeting the criteria listed in (b)(i) or (ii) of
20 this subsection.

21 (3) A grant award under this program does not affect an applicant's
22 eligibility to access other state or federal financial or technical
23 assistance programs.

24 (4) Beginning in December 2009, the department shall submit an
25 annual report to the transportation and local government committees of
26 the legislature that identifies the number of applications received,
27 the communities selected to receive a grant award, the activity or
28 activities for which each grant award was made, and the amount of each
29 grant award. If practicable, the report should also include a status
30 update of progress made toward achieving the purposes of the grant
31 award.

32 (5) This section does not create an entitlement for a grant award.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 (1) The small communities infrastructure planning account is
36 created in the state treasury. All receipts from the proceeds of bond
37 sales, tax revenues, budget transfers, federal appropriations, gifts,

1 or any other lawful source must be deposited in the account. Moneys in
2 the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from
3 the account may be used only to award grants to eligible cities and
4 towns under the small communities infrastructure planning grant program
5 created in section 2 of this act.

6 (2) The department of community, trade, and economic development
7 shall provide management services for the account and establish
8 procedures for account management.

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