
HOUSE BILL 1557

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Warnick, Blake, Kretz, Hinkle, Chandler, McCune, and Johnson

Read first time 01/23/09. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to permit and inspection fees for new farm
2 structures; amending RCW 19.27.100; adding a new section to chapter
3 19.27 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.40 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Oregon does
7 not charge any fees for their farm structures and there is a need for
8 farmers in Washington to have competitive parity with our neighboring
9 state.

10 (2) In some instances, local governments are charging more for the
11 permit fee than it takes to buy the materials and construction of farm
12 structures, like a pole barn. Local governments benefit from the
13 improvements by having a new source of property tax revenue by the
14 creation of the new structure that generates revenues for many years.

15 (3) The legislature intends that first-year taxes paid on the new
16 farm structure be used to offset any permit and inspection fees the
17 county planning department would charge.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) Counties may not impose permit fees or inspection charges for
4 the construction or remodel of agricultural structures.

5 (2) For purposes of this section and section 3 of this act,
6 "agricultural structure" means a structure designed and constructed to
7 house farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock, or other
8 horticultural products. This structure may not be:

- 9 (a) A place of human habitation;
- 10 (b) A place of employment where agricultural products are
11 processed, treated, or packaged;
- 12 (c) A place used by the public;
- 13 (d) A climate controlled building; or
- 14 (e) A structure used for purposes other than growing plants in
15 which ten or more persons are present at any one time.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.27.100 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 8 s 1 are each amended
17 to read as follows:

18 Except as provided in section 2 of this act, nothing in this
19 chapter shall prohibit a city, town, or county of the state from
20 imposing fees different from those set forth in the state building
21 code.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 36.40 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 An amount equal to any reduction in revenue resulting from the
25 agricultural structure permit fee and inspection charge exemptions
26 specified in section 2 of this act must be allocated from the county
27 general levy imposed on the agricultural structure to the county
28 planning department.

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