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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1981**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** House Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Pollet, Ryu, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to local government planning; amending RCW  
2 36.70A.190; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends that the study  
5 provided for in RCW 36.70A.190, and updates to it periodically  
6 thereafter, shall assist in ensuring that cities and counties receive  
7 adequate funding for planning for new elements of comprehensive plans  
8 and for the adoption of implementing ordinances and development  
9 regulations pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW for future comprehensive  
10 plan updates.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.70A.190 and 1991 sp.s. c 32 s 3 are each amended  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The department shall establish a program of technical and  
14 financial assistance and incentives to counties and cities to  
15 encourage and facilitate the adoption and implementation of  
16 comprehensive plans and development regulations throughout the state.

17 (2)(a) The department shall evaluate the costs for counties and  
18 cities to review and revise their comprehensive plans to assure  
19 compliance with this chapter. This evaluation must be completed by  
20 December 1, 2022, and updated every five years thereafter. The

1 department shall provide a report of the evaluation to the  
2 legislature upon completion of the evaluation. The evaluation must  
3 include, at a minimum, the costs for each general jurisdiction size  
4 and type, and the costs to complete various types of planning  
5 requirements, including:

6 (i) Meeting the requirements of a new goal in RCW 36.70A.020;

7 (ii) Meeting the requirements of a new comprehensive plan element  
8 in RCW 36.70A.070;

9 (iii) Updating a critical areas ordinance;

10 (iv) Updating a shoreline master program ordinance;

11 (v) Making a minor update of a comprehensive plan element;

12 (vi) Making a complex update of a comprehensive plan element;

13 (vii) Updating a development regulation; and

14 (viii) Implementing a new development regulation.

15 (b) The department shall consult with the Washington state  
16 association of counties and the association of Washington cities as  
17 part of the process for performing and completing the evaluation.

18 (3) The department shall develop a priority list and establish  
19 funding levels for planning and technical assistance grants both for  
20 counties and cities that plan under RCW 36.70A.040. Priority for  
21 assistance shall be based on a county's or city's population growth  
22 rates, commercial and industrial development rates, the existence and  
23 quality of a comprehensive plan and development regulations, and  
24 other relevant factors.

25 ~~((3))~~ (4) The department shall develop and administer a grant  
26 program to provide direct financial assistance to counties and cities  
27 for the preparation of comprehensive plans under this chapter. The  
28 department may establish provisions for county and city matching  
29 funds to conduct activities under this subsection. Grants may be  
30 expended for any purpose directly related to the preparation of a  
31 county or city comprehensive plan as the county or city and the  
32 department may agree, including, without limitation, the conducting  
33 of surveys, inventories and other data gathering and management  
34 activities, the retention of planning consultants, contracts with  
35 regional councils for planning and related services, and other  
36 related purposes.

37 ~~((4))~~ (5) The department shall establish a program of technical  
38 assistance:

39 (a) Utilizing department staff, the staff of other state  
40 agencies, and the technical resources of counties and cities to help

1 in the development of comprehensive plans required under this  
2 chapter. The technical assistance may include, but not be limited to,  
3 model land use ordinances, regional education and training programs,  
4 and information for local and regional inventories; and

5 (b) Adopting by rule procedural criteria to assist counties and  
6 cities in adopting comprehensive plans and development regulations  
7 that meet the goals and requirements of this chapter. These criteria  
8 shall reflect regional and local variations and the diversity that  
9 exists among different counties and cities that plan under this  
10 chapter.

11 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The department shall provide mediation services to  
12 resolve disputes between counties and cities regarding, among other  
13 things, coordination of regional issues and designation of urban  
14 growth areas.

15 ~~((+6))~~ (7) The department shall provide planning grants to  
16 enhance citizen participation under RCW 36.70A.140.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
18 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
19 provided by June 30, 2022, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
20 act is null and void.

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