
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2392

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Doumit, Mulliken, Scott, Mielke, Miloscia, Hatfield, Fortunato, Fisher, Kenney, Edwards and Wolfe)

Read first time 02/03/2000. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the funding and delivery of local government
2 services; adding a new section to chapter 43.17 RCW; creating new
3 sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that while government
6 services are provided to the citizens of the state of Washington
7 through many mechanisms, the most prevalent delivery of services occurs
8 through city, county, or state government actions. Increased demand
9 for these services and limited revenue to meet those services have led
10 to unproductive competition between cities, counties, and the state for
11 the revenue that is collected and shared between cities, counties, and
12 the state.

13 The legislature further finds that rules adopted by state agencies
14 cause local governments to allocate funds to meet those rules that are
15 not fully funded at the state level.

16 Therefore, the legislature finds that there is a need to evaluate
17 the delivery of government services and the allotment of revenues
18 through the establishment of a joint task force on local governments.

1 The legislature further finds that the state must recognize the
2 costs to local governments of rules adopted by state agencies and
3 mitigate the financial impacts of those rules for a significant period
4 to allow local governments to develop strategies to comply with the
5 requirements of Initiative 695.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint task force on local
7 governments is created, to consist of thirty-two members including:

8 (a) The following ten members of the house of representatives or
9 their designees: (i) The cochairs of the committee on appropriations;
10 (ii) the cochairs of the committee on capital budget; (iii) the
11 cochairs of the committee on finance; (iv) the cochairs of the
12 committee on local government; and (v) the cochairs of the committee on
13 transportation;

14 (b) The following ten members of the senate or their designees:
15 (i) The chair and the ranking minority member of the committee on
16 transportation; (ii) the chair and the ranking minority member of the
17 committee on ways and means; (iii) the chair and ranking minority
18 member of the committee on state and local government; and (iv) four
19 members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate, two
20 from each political party;

21 (c) One nonvoting member from the office of the governor with
22 expertise in finance;

23 (d) Five nonvoting members shall be appointed jointly by the co-
24 speakers of the house of representatives and the majority and minority
25 leaders of the senate, representing the citizens of the state;

26 (e) Two nonvoting members shall be appointed jointly by the co-
27 speakers of the house of representatives and the majority and minority
28 leaders of the senate from nominations by the association of Washington
29 cities;

30 (f) Two nonvoting members shall be appointed jointly by the co-
31 speakers of the house of representatives and the majority and minority
32 leaders of the senate from nominations by the Washington state
33 association of counties;

34 (g) Two nonvoting members shall be appointed jointly by the co-
35 speakers of the house of representatives and the majority and minority
36 leaders of the senate from nominations by the Washington association of
37 county officials.

1 (2) The nonlegislative members of the task force shall serve
2 without compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel expenses as
3 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Legislative members of the
4 task force will be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW
5 44.04.120. The staff of senate committee services and the office of
6 program research of the house of representatives shall provide
7 administrative and clerical assistance to the task force.

8 (3) The task force must be cochaired by one senator, chosen by the
9 task force, and one state representative, chosen by the task force,
10 from opposite political parties. Six members is a quorum for a meeting
11 or hearing. The cochairs may appoint experts and advisors as nonvoting
12 members of the task force to provide input on various subjects. Only
13 the legislative members of the joint task force may vote on the
14 adoption of findings, conclusions, or recommendations. Final findings,
15 conclusions, or recommendations of the task force must be agreed to by
16 at least ten legislative members. However, minority findings,
17 conclusions, or recommendations may be included that are submitted by
18 any legislative member or group of legislative members. The Open
19 Public Meetings Act applies to all meetings and hearings of the task
20 force. The task force shall establish rules of procedure at its first
21 meeting.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The joint task force on local governments
23 shall:

24 (1) Complete a thorough study of the delivery of government
25 services and allotment of revenues; and

26 (2) Commence the study by July 1, 2000, present an interim report
27 of its findings and any recommendations to the legislature by January
28 30, 2001, and present a final report addressing its recommendations to
29 the legislature by January 1, 2002.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.17 RCW
31 to read as follows:

32 State agencies are required to:

33 (1) Examine the impacts of all proposed rules to determine if they
34 will result in increased costs for local governments;

35 (2) Notify associations of local governments of proposed rules
36 affecting their membership if it is determined that the rules will

1 result in increased costs or added administrative burdens for local
2 governments;

3 (3) Utilize rule development processes specified in chapter 34.05
4 RCW, the administrative procedure act, to mitigate cost impacts of
5 proposed rules on local governments;

6 (4) Ensure that adoption of new rules and rule amendments is
7 consistent with the principles and requirements of the governor's
8 executive order 97-02, particularly those that emphasize demonstration
9 of need, effectiveness and efficiency, clarity, consistency with
10 legislative intent, coordination with other jurisdictions and
11 partnership with local governments, consideration of cost, and
12 fairness; and

13 (5) Utilize rule development mechanisms to ensure that cost impacts
14 are minimized and participation in rule development is maximized.
15 Examples include usability testing of rules and other intensive
16 stakeholder involvement methods.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
20 immediately.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act expires March 30, 2002.

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