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HOUSE BILL 2477

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State of Washington

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By Representatives D. Schmidt, Scott, Esser, Mielke, Mulliken, Fisher, O'Brien, Edwards, Doumit, Kastama, Ruderman, Linville, Romero, Lantz, Edmonds, Kenney and Van Luven

Read first time 01/14/2000. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding the municipal research council; amending  
2 RCW 66.08.190 and 43.110.030; adding a new section to chapter 43.110  
3 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.110 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 The city and town research services account is created in the state  
8 treasury. Moneys in the account shall consist of amounts transferred  
9 under RCW 66.08.190(2) and any other transfers or appropriations to the  
10 account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after an  
11 appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for city  
12 and town research.

13 Unobligated moneys remaining in the account at the end of the  
14 fiscal biennium shall be distributed by the treasurer to the  
15 incorporated cities and towns of the state under RCW 66.08.190(1)(b).

16 The treasurer may disburse amounts appropriated to the municipal  
17 research council from the city and town research services account by  
18 warrant or check to the contracting parties on invoices or vouchers  
19 certified by the chair of the municipal research council or his or her

1 designee. Payments to public agencies may be made in advance of actual  
2 work contracted for, at the discretion of the council.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 66.08.190 and 1995 c 159 s 1 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 (1) When excess funds are distributed, all moneys subject to  
6 distribution shall be disbursed as follows:

7 ~~((1))~~ (a) Three-tenths of one percent to border areas under RCW  
8 66.08.195; and

9 ~~((2))~~ (b) From the amount remaining after distribution under (a)  
10 of this subsection ~~((1) of this section)~~, fifty percent to the  
11 general fund of the state, ten percent to the counties of the state,  
12 and forty percent to the incorporated cities and towns of the state.

13 (2) Beginning with the first quarter of fiscal year 2001, and each  
14 quarter thereafter, prior to disbursing the forty percent distribution  
15 to incorporated cities and towns under subsection (1)(b) of this  
16 section, the treasurer shall deduct from that distribution an amount  
17 equal to one-fourth of that fiscal year's appropriations for the  
18 municipal research council for deposit into the city and town research  
19 services account under section 1 of this act.

20 (3) The governor may notify and direct the state treasurer to  
21 withhold the revenues to which the counties and cities are entitled  
22 under this section if the counties or cities are found to be in  
23 noncompliance pursuant to RCW 36.70A.340.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.110.030 and 1997 c 437 s 2 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 The municipal research council shall contract for the provision of  
27 municipal research and services to cities, towns, and counties.  
28 Contracts for municipal research and services shall be made with state  
29 agencies, educational institutions, or private consulting firms, that  
30 in the judgment of council members are qualified to provide such  
31 research and services. Contracts for staff support may be made with  
32 state agencies, educational institutions, or private consulting firms  
33 that in the judgment of the council members are qualified to provide  
34 such support.

35 Municipal research and services shall consist of: (1) Studying and  
36 researching city, town, and county government and issues relating to  
37 city, town, and county government; (2) acquiring, preparing, and

1 distributing publications related to city, town, and county government  
2 and issues relating to city, town, and county government; (3) providing  
3 educational conferences relating to city, town, and county government  
4 and issues relating to city, town, and county government; and (4)  
5 furnishing legal, technical, consultative, and field services to  
6 cities, towns, and counties concerning planning, public health, utility  
7 services, fire protection, law enforcement, public works, and other  
8 issues relating to city, town, and county government. Requests for  
9 legal services by county officials shall be sent to the office of the  
10 county prosecuting attorney. Responses by the municipal research  
11 council to county requests for legal services shall be provided to the  
12 requesting official and the county prosecuting attorney.

13 The activities, programs, and services of the municipal research  
14 council shall be carried on, and all expenditures shall be made, in  
15 cooperation with the cities and towns of the state acting through the  
16 board of directors of the association of Washington cities, which is  
17 recognized as their official agency or instrumentality, and in  
18 cooperation with counties of the state acting through the Washington  
19 state association of counties. Services to cities and towns shall be  
20 based upon the moneys appropriated to the municipal research council  
21 (~~under RCW 82.44.160~~) from the city and town research services  
22 account under section 1 of this act. Services to counties shall be  
23 based upon the moneys appropriated to the municipal research council  
24 from the county research services account under RCW 43.110.050.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
28 July 1, 2000.

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