
HOUSE BILL 1608

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Chandler, Delvin, Cooper, Linville and Lisk; by request of Department of Ecology

Read first time 01/30/2001. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to water resource inventory area planning; and
2 amending RCW 90.82.040.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.82.040 and 1998 c 247 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Once a WRIA planning unit has been initiated under RCW
7 90.82.060 and a lead agency has been designated, it shall notify the
8 department and may apply to the department for funding assistance for
9 conducting the planning. Funds shall be provided from and to the
10 extent of appropriations made by the legislature to the department
11 expressly for this purpose.

12 (2)(a) Each planning unit that has complied with subsection (1) of
13 this section is eligible to receive watershed planning grants in the
14 following amounts for three phases of watershed planning:

15 ((a)) (i) Initiating governments may apply for an initial
16 organizing grant of up to fifty thousand dollars for a single WRIA or
17 up to seventy-five thousand dollars for a multi-WRIA management area in
18 accordance with RCW 90.82.060(4);

1 (~~(b)~~) (ii) A planning unit may apply for up to two hundred
2 thousand dollars for each WRIA in the management area for conducting
3 watershed assessments in accordance with RCW 90.82.070, except that a
4 planning unit whose initiating governments choose to include an
5 instream flow, water quality, or habitat component in accordance with
6 RCW 90.82.080 through 90.82.100 may apply for additional funds to
7 conduct assessments of up to one hundred thousand dollars for each
8 component included; and

9 (~~(e)~~) (iii) A planning unit may apply for up to two hundred fifty
10 thousand dollars for each WRIA in the management area for developing a
11 watershed plan and making recommendations for actions by local, state,
12 and federal agencies, tribes, private property owners, private
13 organizations, and individual citizens, including a recommended list of
14 strategies and projects that would further the purpose of the plan in
15 accordance with RCW 90.82.060 through 90.82.100.

16 (b) A planning unit may request a different amount for phase two or
17 phase three of watershed planning than is specified in (a) of this
18 subsection, provided that the total amount of funds awarded do not
19 exceed the maximum amount the planning unit is eligible for under (a)
20 of this subsection. The department shall not approve an alternate
21 allocation of funds unless the planning unit demonstrates that an
22 alternate allocation will not impair the unit's ability to complete a
23 plan in accordance with this chapter.

24 (3)(a) The department shall use the eligibility criteria in this
25 subsection (3) instead of rules, policies, or guidelines when
26 evaluating grant applications at each stage of the grants program.

27 (b) In reviewing grant applications under this subsection (3), the
28 department shall evaluate whether:

29 (i) The planning unit meets all of the requirements of this
30 chapter;

31 (ii) The application demonstrates a need for state planning funds
32 to accomplish the objectives of the planning process; and

33 (iii) The application and supporting information evidences a
34 readiness to proceed.

35 (c) In ranking grant applications submitted at each stage of the
36 grants program, the department shall give preference to applications in
37 the following order of priority:

38 (i) Applications from existing planning groups that have been in
39 existence for at least one year;

1 (ii) Applications that address protection and enhancement of fish
2 habitat in watersheds that have aquatic fish species listed or proposed
3 to be listed as endangered or threatened under the federal endangered
4 species act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq. and for which there is
5 evidence of an inability to supply adequate water for population and
6 economic growth from:

7 (A) First, multi-WRIA planning; and

8 (B) Second, single WRIA planning;

9 (iii) Applications that address protection and enhancement of fish
10 habitat in watersheds or for which there is evidence of an inability to
11 supply adequate water for population and economic growth from:

12 (A) First, multi-WRIA planning; and

13 (B) Second, single WRIA planning.

14 (d) The department may not impose any local matching fund
15 requirement as a condition for grant eligibility or as a preference for
16 receiving a grant.

17 (4) The department may retain up to one percent of funds allocated
18 under this section to defray administrative costs.

19 (5) Planning under this chapter should be completed as
20 expeditiously as possible, with the focus being on local stakeholders
21 cooperating to meet local needs.

22 (6) Funding provided under this section shall be considered a
23 contractual obligation against the moneys appropriated for this
24 purpose.

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