
SENATE BILL 5555

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Hale and Patterson

Read first time 01/26/2001. Referred to Committee on Economic Development & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a branch office of the department
2 of community, trade, and economic development in eastern Washington;
3 and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that economic
6 development, work force training, international trade, tourism
7 development, housing assistance, assistance to local governments, and
8 other programs and services provided by the department of community,
9 trade, and economic development are vital to all regions of the state.
10 The legislature further finds that program development and service
11 delivery to the eastern region of the state could be significantly
12 enhanced by a continuous, full-time physical staff presence in that
13 region.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** For the purposes of this act:

15 (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
16 economic development, or its successor agency or agencies.

17 (2) "Director" means the director of the department.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In order to more effectively respond to the
2 needs of eastern Washington communities, the department shall, as soon
3 as practicable, establish a field office and a full-time staff presence
4 in eastern Washington. If practicable, the office shall be colocated
5 with one or more existing state agencies in the Tri-Cities area to
6 facilitate the urgent economic development needs of southeastern
7 Washington. This office shall be staffed by the director in the most
8 efficient manner that is likely to provide improved service to eastern
9 Washington communities.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Program activities and priorities for this
11 office serving eastern Washington shall be determined by the director,
12 in consultation with local government officials, business, labor, and
13 educational advisors from the region.

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