
HOUSE BILL 2072

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives McLean, Rasmussen, Chandler, Lisk, Grant, Kremen, Nealey, Fuhrman and Morton.

Read first time February 21, 1991. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the circuit rider assistance program; adding new
2 sections to chapter 43.63A RCW; making an appropriation; and declaring
3 an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Small and rural communities often lack the resources to
7 adequately comply with the increasing number and complexity of state
8 planning requirements;

9 (2) The ability of small and rural communities to experience
10 economic development is limited by lack of financial resources and
11 technical expertise;

12 (3) Revitalization of these communities is in the public interest.
13 Therefore, the legislature declares it to be in the public interest
14 to establish a circuit rider program in the department of community
15 development to assist these communities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
2 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
3 chapter.

4 (1) "Small communities" means any community with a population less
5 than ten thousand persons.

6 (2) "Rural communities" means any grouping of consumers, seventy-
7 five percent of whom reside in areas outside of a standard metropolitan
8 statistical area as defined by the United States bureau of census.

9 (3) "Distressed communities" means any community in which the
10 unemployment rate is twenty percent above the state average for the
11 immediately previous three years.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The circuit rider assistance program is
13 established in the department of community development. The program
14 shall provide technical and funding assistance to small communities for
15 the purposes outlined in this section. Technical and financial
16 assistance may be made available to communities for the following
17 purposes:

18 (1) Planning requirements mandated by state legislation;

19 (2) Accessing federal funds and other state funding or assistance
20 programs;

21 (3) Complying with either federal or state regulations, including
22 environmental regulations;

23 (4) Developing programs and strategies to enhance economic growth
24 and diversify economies.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The circuit rider program shall be
26 located within the local government assistance division of the
27 department. The department shall hire at least one full-time staff to
28 administer the program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** From appropriations made for this
2 purpose, the department may provide financial assistance in the form of
3 matching funds to local governments for the purposes outlined in
4 section 3 of this act. Matching fund grants may be for no more than
5 fifty percent of the project cost. Applications must be made to the
6 department for this purpose. The department shall provide that eighty
7 percent of funds appropriated for this purpose go to communities
8 classified as either small, economically distressed, or rural.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,
10 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
11 biennium ending June 30, 1991, from the general fund to the department
12 of community development for the purposes of this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are
14 each added to chapter 43.63A RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
17 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
18 effect immediately.