
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2526

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Ludwig, Inslee, Bray, Chandler, Hochstatter, Valle, Rayburn, Moyer, Roland, Jacobsen, Haugen, Jones, McLean, Sprenkle and Rasmussen)

Read first time 02/05/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington rural development council; adding
2 a new section to chapter 43.63A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Given the rapid change in the structure
5 of the state and world economy, it is recognized that experiments in
6 identifying, communicating, and acting upon new means of protecting and
7 enhancing the viability and self reliance of rural Washington
8 communities are needed. Voluntary and meaningful communication between
9 all levels of government, including tribal governments, and the
10 nonprofit and private sectors is critical for the representation of the
11 needs and interests of rural residents. It is also of critical
12 importance to the integrity of the entire state to identify ways that
13 urban and rural economies of Washington can function to complement each
14 other and reinforce the quality of life available to residents.

1 The legislature recognizes the efforts of the Washington state
2 rural development council, in operation since February of 1991, through
3 the voluntary support of state, federal, and local government and
4 private businesses and citizens, and in acknowledgment and recognition
5 of these efforts, encourages all agencies and branches of state
6 government that operate programs in rural areas of the state to
7 participate actively in the activities of the council.

8 The Washington state rural development council is a partnership
9 between state, federal, and local governments, tribal governments, and
10 the public and private sectors, and is organized to meet the needs of
11 all members of the partnership. The council is organized as a mutual
12 effort to mitigate negative impacts upon rural communities, enhance
13 their viability and self reliance, and look for ways to coordinate,
14 synchronize, or consolidate the efforts of all who serve rural
15 communities and citizens.

16 The Washington state rural development council's mission has been
17 determined by public forum to be: Coordinating and applying private,
18 local, state, tribal, and federal resources to support the development
19 of viable, self-reliant rural communities in accordance with locally
20 conceived and driven strategies. A primary function of the council is
21 that of facilitator, serving as a forum for communication between the
22 council's constituencies and stakeholders; change agent, acting as both
23 a sounding board for emerging issues and an advocate for change in
24 policies and rules that inhibit the viability of rural communities; and
25 resource developer, serving to maximize knowledge of discretionary
26 resources throughout rural areas of the state.

27 The objectives of the Washington state rural development council
28 should be consistent with the council's mission and honor the
29 perspectives of the partnership in its undertaking of the following:

1 (1) Providing a forum for policy analysis concerning existing and
2 proposed rural development strategies in Washington;

3 (2) Promoting coordination and cooperation between all levels of
4 government, and private, public, and nonprofit groups in order to
5 promote rural economic vitality;

6 (3) Facilitating communication between rural communities and
7 organizations and other sectors of the state and nation;

8 (4) Promoting the establishment of rural-urban linkage partnerships
9 that will be mutually beneficial to both rural and urban areas in
10 alleviating the distress of rapid economic growth or decline and
11 promoting economic vitality;

12 (5) Identifying and addressing federal, state, and local
13 administrative barriers that hinder economic vitality; and

14 (6) Identifying and providing opportunities to educate and inform
15 state, federal, and local policy and program staff as to the needs and
16 special development context of rural Washington.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state rural development
18 council shall be located in a branch or agency of either the federal or
19 state government according to a memorandum of understanding between the
20 host agency and the partners represented on the council. The state's
21 share of the costs incurred by the Washington state rural development
22 council shall be limited to amounts appropriated by the state for its
23 use or amounts allocated by the department for support of the council.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act is added to
25 chapter 43.63A RCW.