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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2392**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**2000 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Doumit, Mulliken, Scott, Mielke, Miloscia, Hatfield, Fortunato, Fisher, Kenney, Edwards and Wolfe)

Read first time 02/03/2000. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the funding and delivery of local government  
2 services; adding a new section to chapter 43.17 RCW; creating new  
3 sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that while government  
6 services are provided to the citizens of the state of Washington  
7 through many mechanisms, the most prevalent delivery of services occurs  
8 through city, county, or state government actions. Increased demand  
9 for these services and limited revenue to meet those services have led  
10 to unproductive competition between cities, counties, and the state for  
11 the revenue that is collected and shared between cities, counties, and  
12 the state.

13 The legislature further finds that rules adopted by state agencies  
14 cause local governments to allocate funds to meet those rules that are  
15 not fully funded at the state level.

16 Therefore, the legislature finds that there is a need to evaluate  
17 the delivery of government services and the allotment of revenues  
18 through the establishment of a joint task force on local governments.

1 The legislature further finds that the state must recognize the  
2 costs to local governments of rules adopted by state agencies and  
3 mitigate the financial impacts of those rules for a significant period  
4 to allow local governments to develop strategies to comply with the  
5 requirements of Initiative 695.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint task force on local  
7 governments is created, to consist of thirty-two members including:

8 (a) The following ten members of the house of representatives or  
9 their designees: (i) The cochairs of the committee on appropriations;  
10 (ii) the cochairs of the committee on capital budget; (iii) the  
11 cochairs of the committee on finance; (iv) the cochairs of the  
12 committee on local government; and (v) the cochairs of the committee on  
13 transportation;

14 (b) The following ten members of the senate or their designees:  
15 (i) The chair and the ranking minority member of the committee on  
16 transportation; (ii) the chair and the ranking minority member of the  
17 committee on ways and means; (iii) the chair and ranking minority  
18 member of the committee on state and local government; and (iv) four  
19 members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate, two  
20 from each political party;

21 (c) One nonvoting member from the office of the governor with  
22 expertise in finance;

23 (d) Five nonvoting members shall be appointed jointly by the co-  
24 speakers of the house of representatives and the majority and minority  
25 leaders of the senate, representing the citizens of the state;

26 (e) Two nonvoting members shall be appointed jointly by the co-  
27 speakers of the house of representatives and the majority and minority  
28 leaders of the senate from nominations by the association of Washington  
29 cities;

30 (f) Two nonvoting members shall be appointed jointly by the co-  
31 speakers of the house of representatives and the majority and minority  
32 leaders of the senate from nominations by the Washington state  
33 association of counties;

34 (g) Two nonvoting members shall be appointed jointly by the co-  
35 speakers of the house of representatives and the majority and minority  
36 leaders of the senate from nominations by the Washington association of  
37 county officials.

1 (2) The nonlegislative members of the task force shall serve  
2 without compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel expenses as  
3 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Legislative members of the  
4 task force will be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW  
5 44.04.120. The staff of senate committee services and the office of  
6 program research of the house of representatives shall provide  
7 administrative and clerical assistance to the task force.

8 (3) The task force must be cochaired by one senator, chosen by the  
9 task force, and one state representative, chosen by the task force,  
10 from opposite political parties. Six members is a quorum for a meeting  
11 or hearing. The cochairs may appoint experts and advisors as nonvoting  
12 members of the task force to provide input on various subjects. Only  
13 the legislative members of the joint task force may vote on the  
14 adoption of findings, conclusions, or recommendations. Final findings,  
15 conclusions, or recommendations of the task force must be agreed to by  
16 at least ten legislative members. However, minority findings,  
17 conclusions, or recommendations may be included that are submitted by  
18 any legislative member or group of legislative members. The Open  
19 Public Meetings Act applies to all meetings and hearings of the task  
20 force. The task force shall establish rules of procedure at its first  
21 meeting.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The joint task force on local governments  
23 shall:

24 (1) Complete a thorough study of the delivery of government  
25 services and allotment of revenues; and

26 (2) Commence the study by July 1, 2000, present an interim report  
27 of its findings and any recommendations to the legislature by January  
28 30, 2001, and present a final report addressing its recommendations to  
29 the legislature by January 1, 2002.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.17 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32 State agencies are required to:

33 (1) Examine the impacts of all proposed rules to determine if they  
34 will result in increased costs for local governments;

35 (2) Notify associations of local governments of proposed rules  
36 affecting their membership if it is determined that the rules will

1 result in increased costs or added administrative burdens for local  
2 governments;

3 (3) Utilize rule development processes specified in chapter 34.05  
4 RCW, the administrative procedure act, to mitigate cost impacts of  
5 proposed rules on local governments;

6 (4) Ensure that adoption of new rules and rule amendments is  
7 consistent with the principles and requirements of the governor's  
8 executive order 97-02, particularly those that emphasize demonstration  
9 of need, effectiveness and efficiency, clarity, consistency with  
10 legislative intent, coordination with other jurisdictions and  
11 partnership with local governments, consideration of cost, and  
12 fairness; and

13 (5) Utilize rule development mechanisms to ensure that cost impacts  
14 are minimized and participation in rule development is maximized.  
15 Examples include usability testing of rules and other intensive  
16 stakeholder involvement methods.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
20 immediately.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act expires March 30, 2002.

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