
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5107

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on State & Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators T. Sheldon, Honeyford, Hargrove and Rasmussen)

Read first time 03/05/2001. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to rural county planning goals under the growth
2 management act; and adding a new section to chapter 36.70A RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1)(a) A rural county that is otherwise subject to the requirements
7 of RCW 36.70A.040, after reaching an agreement with its cities to
8 consider a proposal to implement this section, may develop a proposal
9 for alternative methods of achieving the planning goals established by
10 RCW 36.70A.020. Such alternative methods shall not take the place of
11 any requirement in this chapter unless a written alternative methods
12 agreement has first been executed pursuant to this section.

13 (b) The authority provided by this subsection may not be used to
14 change the authority of a growth management hearings board to hear and
15 determine petitions related to (b)(i), (ii), and (iii) of this
16 subsection or to modify substantive requirements of this chapter,
17 including but not limited to:

1 (i) Requirements for the designation and protection of critical
2 areas or for the designation and conservation of natural resource lands
3 under RCW 36.70A.060(2), 36.70A.170, and 36.70A.172;

4 (ii) The requirement to establish a process for the siting of
5 essential public facilities pursuant to RCW 36.70A.200; or

6 (iii) The requirement to adopt a capital facilities plan element
7 pursuant to RCW 36.70A.070(3).

8 (c) Before adopting any alternative methods of achieving the
9 planning goals established by RCW 36.70A.020, and before adopting any
10 development regulations to implement those alternative methods, a rural
11 county shall provide an opportunity for public participation consistent
12 with RCW 36.70A.035 and 36.70A.140. An ordinance or resolution
13 proposing or adopting an alternative methods agreement and a copy of
14 the proposed and adopted alternative methods agreement must be
15 submitted to the department in the same manner as provided in RCW
16 36.70A.106 for submittal of proposed and adopted comprehensive plans
17 and development regulations.

18 (2) For purposes of this section, "rural county" means a county
19 with a population density of less than one hundred persons per square
20 mile as determined by the office of financial management and published
21 each year by the department for the period July 1st to June 30th.
22 "Alternative methods agreement" means a written agreement, reflecting
23 all aspects of this section, that has been executed by the county and
24 at least sixty percent of the cities in the county, so long as those
25 cities represent a total of seventy-five percent or more of the
26 population within incorporated areas of the county.

27 (3) The alternative methods agreement adopted pursuant to this
28 section shall be consistent with achieving the goals of RCW 36.70A.020
29 and shall ensure that adequate public facilities and services are
30 provided concurrent with development. The agreement must provide:

31 (a) A long-term vision for the countywide region;

32 (b) Alternative methods for achieving the goals of RCW 36.70A.020;

33 (c) A plan for amending, if needed, countywide planning policies
34 adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.210;

35 (d) Consistency and coordination among local governments, including
36 special purpose districts;

37 (e) A strategy for addressing other issues, as appropriate, to meet
38 local, regional, and statewide needs; and

1 (f) Performance-based monitoring that provides for periodic reviews
2 and adjustments, if needed, to achieve the goals of RCW 36.70A.020.

3 (4) The alternative methods agreement adopted pursuant to this
4 section may substitute for all or part of the comprehensive plan
5 required under RCW 36.70A.040, subject to the limitations in this
6 section. The alternative methods agreement shall be implemented
7 through the adoption of development regulations that are consistent
8 with the agreement and the goals of RCW 36.70A.020.

9 (5) A rural county that chooses to use an alternative methods
10 agreement shall submit a report to the department on the results of its
11 performance-based monitoring, pursuant to subsection (3)(f) of this
12 section, at least every five years, beginning with the date the
13 alternative methods agreement is executed.

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