
HOUSE BILL 2526

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Ludwig, Inslee, Bray, Chandler, Hochstatter, Valle, Rayburn, Moyer, Roland, Jacobsen, Haugen, Jones, McLean, Sprenkle and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/20/92. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington rural development council; adding
2 new sections to chapter 43.31 RCW; and adding new sections to chapter
3 43.131 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** During the decade of the 1980's and into
6 the early 1990's, much of rural Washington has experienced economic
7 distress and population decline as compared to the rapidly growing
8 Puget Sound region. The reasons for the dramatic disparity between the
9 two regions of the state are complex and varied. However, the
10 challenges facing resource-based industries as compared to the dramatic
11 growth opportunities in aerospace and technology-based products have
12 been one of the major contributors to this phenomenon.

13 During this period of rural recession, a series of state programs
14 were established and expanded to address the problems facing rural

1 communities with the primary focus being placed on distressed areas.
2 In recent years, concerns have been raised regarding the level of
3 coordination and cooperation between the various programs along with an
4 increasing emphasis on the need to ensure accountability and greater
5 program effectiveness. The legislatively mandated service delivery
6 task force, in its report to the legislature, confirmed the need for
7 policy and programmatic change with particular emphasis on the
8 following areas: Clear articulation of a comprehensive policy
9 direction; renewed emphasis on the specific needs of clients; need for
10 planning and delivery of services at the local level; leveraging of
11 resources through collaboration and building of trust among
12 participants; evaluation of programs; and concrete implementation of
13 the task force plans and recommendations.

14 The federal government, by presidential initiative, established the
15 rural development council which is comprised of representatives from
16 the federal, state, local, and tribal governments along with private
17 and nonprofit sectors in an effort to promote coordination and
18 cooperation in promoting economic vitality in the rural areas. This
19 initiative provides a unique opportunity for state government to
20 support the work of the council while building on the recommendations
21 of previous legislatures and the findings of the service delivery task
22 force. It is the intent of the legislature to ensure a healthy future
23 for rural communities and their citizens while building a partnership
24 based on trust and mutual benefit between the urban and rural
25 communities of Washington.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington rural development council
27 is established. The council's mission is to coordinate and apply
28 private, local, state, tribal, and federal resources to support the

1 development of viable, self-reliant rural communities according to
2 locally conceived and driven strategies.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington rural development council
4 shall be comprised of six executive officers, whose initial
5 appointments may be staggered, appointed by the governor for four-year
6 terms. The council shall elect a chairperson from among its own
7 members who shall serve for a period of one year. The chairmanship of
8 the council shall rotate annually between federal and state
9 representatives. The executive officers shall provide policy direction
10 and administrative oversight to the council.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The Washington rural development
12 council's executive committee shall be comprised of thirty members
13 including the six executive officers. The additional twenty-four
14 members shall be appointed by the executive officers. The individuals
15 shall represent the following areas: Federal government, state
16 government, local government, tribal government, and private and
17 nonprofit sectors. The executive committee members shall be appointed
18 for two years and members may be appointed to staggered terms in
19 initial appointments. The executive committee shall provide long-term
20 policy direction and oversight to the council.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** General membership in the Washington
22 rural development council is open to all individuals and organizations
23 with an interest in rural economic development and wishing to assist
24 the council in its stated goals and objectives.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The Washington rural development
26 council's executive director shall be appointed by the council's

1 executive officers and serve at their pleasure. The executive director
2 shall provide staff support and assist the council in designing and
3 implementing state goals and strategies.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The duties of the council include:

5 (1) Providing policy analysis on existing and proposed rural
6 development strategies in Washington;

7 (2) Promoting coordination and cooperation between all levels of
8 government and private, public, and nonprofit groups to promote rural
9 economic vitality;

10 (3) Facilitating communication between the various sectors of the
11 agricultural community;

12 (4) Facilitating communication between the rural community and
13 other sectors of the state and nation;

14 (5) Promoting the establishment of urban-rural linkage partnerships
15 that will be mutually beneficial to both areas in alleviating the
16 distress of rapid economic growth or decline and promoting economic
17 vitality;

18 (6) Identifying and addressing federal, state, and local
19 administrative barriers that hinder rural economic vitality; and

20 (7) Promoting the establishment of educational and training
21 opportunities for individuals in rural areas.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Members of the council shall be
23 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and
24 43.03.060 subject to a legislative appropriation.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131 RCW
26 to read as follows:

1 The Washington rural development council and its powers and duties
2 shall be terminated on June 30, 1996, as provided in section 10 of this
3 act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The following acts, or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter
7 amended, are each repealed, effective June 30, 1997:

8 (1) RCW 43.31.--- and 1992 c -- s 1 (section 1 of this act);

9 (2) RCW 43.31.--- and 1992 c -- s 2 (section 2 of this act);

10 (3) RCW 43.31.--- and 1992 c -- s 3 (section 3 of this act);

11 (4) RCW 43.31.--- and 1992 c -- s 4 (section 4 of this act);

12 (5) RCW 43.31.--- and 1992 c -- s 5 (section 5 of this act);

13 (6) RCW 43.31.--- and 1992 c -- s 6 (section 6 of this act);

14 (7) RCW 43.31.--- and 1992 c -- s 7 (section 7 of this act); and

15 (8) RCW 43.31.--- and 1992 c -- s 8 (section 8 of this act).

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act are
17 each added to chapter 43.31 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** If any provision of this act or its
19 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
20 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
21 persons or circumstances is not affected.