
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5221

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Skratek, Erwin, M. Rasmussen, Deccio
and Barr)

Read first time 1/28/94.

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

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 the
6 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
15 communities with the primary focus being placed on distressed areas.
16 In recent years, concerns have been raised regarding the level of
17 coordination and cooperation between the various programs along with an
18 increasing emphasis on the need to ensure accountability and greater
19 program effectiveness. The legislatively mandated service delivery

1 task force, in its report to the legislature, confirmed the need for
2 policy and programmatic change with particular emphasis on the
3 following areas: Clear articulation of a comprehensive policy
4 direction; renewed emphasis on the specific needs of clients; need for
5 planning and delivery of services at the local level; leveraging of
6 resources through collaboration and building of trust among
7 participants; evaluation of programs; and concrete implementation of
8 the task force plans and recommendations.

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

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington rural development council is
22 established. The council's mission is to coordinate and apply private,
23 local, state, tribal, and federal resources to support the development
24 of viable, self-reliant rural communities according to locally
25 conceived and driven strategies.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington state rural development
27 council shall be composed of six executive officers, whose initial
28 appointments may be staggered. The existing federally recognized
29 Washington state rural development council, established in 1991 by
30 Presidential Initiative, shall recommend, and the governor shall
31 appoint, one executive officer each to represent: State government,
32 federal government, tribal government, local government, nonprofit
33 organizations, and the private sector. The executive officers shall
34 serve for two-year terms, whose initial terms may be staggered. The
35 executive officers shall elect a chairperson who shall serve a one-year
36 term from among councilmembers. The executive officers shall provide
37 policy direction and administrative oversight to the council.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The Washington state rural development
2 council's executive committee shall be composed of thirty members
3 including the six executive officers. The additional twenty-four
4 members shall represent the following areas: Federal government, state
5 government, tribal government, local government, and private and
6 nonprofit sectors. Executive committee members shall be selected
7 according to procedures approved by the council's executive officers,
8 and shall serve two-year terms with initial terms staggered. The
9 executive committee shall provide long-term policy direction and
10 oversight to the council.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** General membership in the Washington rural
12 development council is open to all individuals and organizations with
13 an interest in rural economic development and wishing to assist the
14 council in its stated goals and objectives.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The Washington rural development council's
16 executive director shall be appointed by the council's executive
17 officers and serve at their pleasure. The executive director shall
18 provide staff support and assist the council in designing and
19 implementing state goals and strategies.

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

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

23 (2) Promoting coordination and cooperation between all levels of
24 government and private, public, and nonprofit groups to promote rural
25 economic vitality;

26 (3) Facilitating communication between the various sectors of the
27 agricultural community;

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

30 (5) Facilitating communication between the various sectors of the
31 natural resource community;

32 (6) Promoting the establishment of urban-rural linkage partnerships
33 that will be mutually beneficial to both areas in alleviating the
34 distress of rapid economic growth or decline and promoting economic
35 vitality;

1 (7) Identifying and addressing federal, state, tribal, and local
2 administrative barriers that hinder rural economic vitality;

3 (8) Promoting the establishment of educational and training
4 opportunities for individuals in rural areas; and

5 (9) Providing policy analysis on existing and proposed development
6 strategies for the various tribes that may participate and request such
7 assistance.

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

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

13 The Washington rural development council and its powers and duties
14 shall be terminated on June 30, 1997, as provided in section 10 of this
15 act.

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

18 The following acts, or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter
19 amended, are each repealed, effective June 30, 1998:

20 (1) RCW 43.31.--- and 1994 c -- s 1 (section 1 of this act);

21 (2) RCW 43.31.--- and 1994 c -- s 2 (section 2 of this act);

22 (3) RCW 43.31.--- and 1994 c -- s 3 (section 3 of this act);

23 (4) RCW 43.31.--- and 1994 c -- s 4 (section 4 of this act);

24 (5) RCW 43.31.--- and 1994 c -- s 5 (section 5 of this act);

25 (6) RCW 43.31.--- and 1994 c -- s 6 (section 6 of this act);

26 (7) RCW 43.31.--- and 1994 c -- s 7 (section 7 of this act); and

27 (8) RCW 43.31.--- and 1994 c -- s 8 (section 8 of this act).

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

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The sum of forty-nine thousand five hundred
31 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
32 the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the rural
33 development council for the purposes of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** If any provision of this act or its
2 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
3 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
4 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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