
SENATE BILL 5221

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Skratek, Erwin, M. Rasmussen, Deccio and Barr

Read first time 01/18/93. Referred to Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic 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 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 rural development council
27 shall be comprised of six executive officers, whose initial
28 appointments may be staggered, appointed by the governor for four-year
29 terms. The council shall elect a chairperson from among its own
30 members who shall serve for a period of one year. The chairmanship of
31 the council shall rotate annually between federal and state
32 representatives. The executive officers shall provide policy direction
33 and administrative oversight to the council.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The Washington rural development council's
35 executive committee shall be comprised of thirty members including the
36 six executive officers. The additional twenty-four members shall be

1 appointed by the executive officers. The individuals shall represent
2 the following areas: Federal government, state government, local
3 government, tribal government, and private and nonprofit sectors. The
4 executive committee members shall be appointed for two years and
5 members may be appointed to staggered terms in initial appointments.
6 The executive committee shall provide long-term policy direction and
7 oversight to the council.

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

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

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

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

20 (2) Promoting coordination and cooperation between all levels of
21 government and private, public, and nonprofit groups to promote rural
22 economic vitality;

23 (3) Facilitating communication between the various sectors of the
24 agricultural community;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 13 (1) RCW 43.31.--- and 1993 c -- s 1 (section 1 of this act);
- 14 (2) RCW 43.31.--- and 1993 c -- s 2 (section 2 of this act);
- 15 (3) RCW 43.31.--- and 1993 c -- s 3 (section 3 of this act);
- 16 (4) RCW 43.31.--- and 1993 c -- s 4 (section 4 of this act);
- 17 (5) RCW 43.31.--- and 1993 c -- s 5 (section 5 of this act);
- 18 (6) RCW 43.31.--- and 1993 c -- s 6 (section 6 of this act);
- 19 (7) RCW 43.31.--- and 1993 c -- s 7 (section 7 of this act); and
- 20 (8) RCW 43.31.--- and 1993 c -- s 8 (section 8 of this act).

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

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** If any provision of this act or its
24 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
25 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
26 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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