
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6460

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Land Use & Planning (originally sponsored by Senators Mulliken and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to removal of agricultural resource land
2 designation; amending RCW 36.70A.170; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 36.70A RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.170 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 17 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) On or before September 1, 1991, each county, and each city,
8 shall designate where appropriate:

9 (a) Agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban
10 growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial
11 production of food or other agricultural products;

12 (b) Forest lands that are not already characterized by urban growth
13 and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of
14 timber;

15 (c) Mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by
16 urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of
17 minerals; and

18 (d) Critical areas.

1 (2) In making the designations required by this section, counties
2 and cities shall consider the guidelines established pursuant to RCW
3 36.70A.050.

4 (3) An agricultural resource land designation previously adopted
5 pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this section may be removed, if the
6 result complies with RCW 36.70A.020(8), 36.70A.060, and 36.70A.177 and
7 is consistent with guidelines adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.050 and
8 with the goals, objectives, and implementing policies of the governing
9 comprehensive plan. To remove an agricultural resource land
10 designation, a finding must be made that the land does not meet the
11 requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section. Where there are
12 adopted criteria for designation of agricultural resource land, the
13 finding must be based on the adopted criteria.

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 36.70A RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 For a single parcel or a small isolated area of more than one
17 parcel of land that is zoned rural and required by regulations adopted
18 under this chapter to remain in agricultural use but is not designated
19 pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170, a local government may allow subdivision to
20 a density that is consistent with the average parcel size of the
21 surrounding area, if the single parcel or small isolated area of more
22 than one parcel is surrounded by incompatible residential uses and the
23 result complies with RCW 36.70A.070(5)(c) and all applicable
24 subdivision regulations and serves to infill the surrounding higher-
25 density area or resolves conflicts between agricultural use and
26 surrounding residential use.

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