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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5331**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2005 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Doumit, Hewitt, Brown, Honeyford, Fraser, Hargrove, Parlette and Jacobsen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/05.

1       AN ACT Relating to creating a historic county courthouse program;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 27.34 RCW; creating a new section; and  
3 making an appropriation.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that twenty-eight of  
6 the state's thirty-nine currently operating county courthouses appear  
7 to meet the state criteria as historic buildings. Washington's  
8 historic county courthouses are an unsurpassed historical and  
9 architectural collection reflecting civic pride, local heritage, and  
10 master craftsmanship. These buildings are intensively used by the  
11 public as the seats of county government and as judicial and criminal  
12 justice centers. As anchors of the downtown commercial cores of their  
13 communities, these courthouses strengthen local commerce, attract  
14 tourism, and provide a sense of identity. Capital improvements to  
15 these landmarks are needed to protect their safety and historic and  
16 architectural integrity.

17       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 27.34 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) The historic county courthouse grant program is established for  
2 the protection and preservation of the state's historic county  
3 courthouses.

4 (2) The historic county courthouse account is created in the state  
5 treasury. Legislative appropriations for the purpose of the historic  
6 county courthouse grant program shall be deposited to the account.  
7 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.  
8 Expenditures from the account shall be used exclusively to fund the  
9 historic county courthouse grant program.

10 (3) The office of archaeology and historic preservation shall  
11 administer the historic county courthouse grant program. No more than  
12 one percent of the expenditures from the historic county courthouse  
13 account may be used for the administrative purposes of the office. All  
14 other expenditures from the account shall be for grants to be made to  
15 counties for the protection and preservation of courthouses that meet  
16 the eligibility requirements for listing on the Washington heritage  
17 register established under RCW 27.34.220. Counties receiving grants  
18 under this section shall provide an equal amount of matching funds from  
19 public or private sources.

20 (4) By October 1, 2005, the office shall establish eligibility  
21 criteria and a grant application process. Grants may be made for  
22 courthouse protection and preservation, including character defining  
23 architectural features, general repairs, system upgrades, payments for  
24 renovations completed since January 1, 2003, and improvements to access  
25 and accommodations for persons with disabilities. All rehabilitation  
26 work shall comply with the federal department of the interior's  
27 standards for rehabilitation. Grants shall not be used for  
28 expenditures for courthouse maintenance. Only counties with historic  
29 courthouses that continue to maintain county functions are eligible for  
30 grants under this section.

31 (5) The office of archaeology and historic preservation shall  
32 establish an historic courthouse advisory board that includes two  
33 county elected officials appointed by the Washington state association  
34 of counties, two county elected officials appointed by the Washington  
35 association of county officials, a representative of a statewide  
36 historic preservation organization, a representative from a county  
37 heritage commission that is a certified local government, a member of  
38 the senate appointed by the president of the senate, a member of the

1 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of  
2 representatives, a member of the state advisory council on historic  
3 preservation, and up to three at-large members with expertise in  
4 architecture, architectural history, construction, construction  
5 management, engineering, planning, or a related field.

6 (6) If available funds in the account exceed eligible courthouse  
7 grant recipients, historic county-owned facilities such as libraries,  
8 museums, and hospitals may apply for grants using the same criteria.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of twenty million dollars, or as  
10 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
11 ending June 30, 2007, from the public works assistance account to the  
12 historic county courthouse account for the purposes of this act.

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