
SENATE BILL 5331

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Doumit, Hewitt, Brown, Honeyford, Fraser, Hargrove, Parlette and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/20/2005. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

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;
3 making an appropriation; providing an effective date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (5) The office of archaeology and historic preservation shall
35 establish an historic courthouse advisory board that includes two
36 county elected officials appointed by the Washington state association
37 of counties, two county elected officials appointed by the Washington
38 association of county officials, a representative of a statewide

1 historic preservation organization, a representative from a county
2 heritage commission that is a certified local government, a member of
3 the senate appointed by the president of the senate, a member of the
4 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives, a member of the state advisory council on historic
6 preservation, and up to three at-large members with expertise in
7 architecture, architectural history, construction, construction
8 management, engineering, planning, or a related field.

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

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of twenty million dollars, or as
13 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
14 ending June 30, 2007, from the state building construction account to
15 the historic county courthouse account for the purposes of this act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
19 July 1, 2005.

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