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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5968**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2005 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development  
(originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Morton, Schoesler,  
Jacobsen, Delvin, Parlette and Mulliken)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the economic and social contribution of  
2 agricultural fairs to Washington state; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that agricultural  
5 fairs and fairgrounds provide numerous economic and social benefits to  
6 Washington state. The enhancements of tourism, promotion of local  
7 commerce, rural economic development, disaster preparedness, and  
8 opportunities for youth are all part of the multifaceted, year-round  
9 fair industry.

10 Fairgrounds host a variety of commercial and social events year  
11 round. They offer educational, cultural, and entertainment events,  
12 promote youth development, and contribute to community cohesiveness.  
13 Fairs and fairgrounds provide community groups with fund-raising  
14 opportunities that, in turn, provide a variety of social benefits to  
15 the community.

16 Participants and attendees contribute to the local economy through  
17 purchase of food, lodging, and supplies. Fair operations also  
18 contribute to the local economy through the purchase of equipment,

1 materials, supplies, advertising, hiring local labor, and numerous  
2 other elements that are related to the operations of the fairgrounds.

3 The best interest of the state is achieved when we encourage all  
4 venues that enhance economic and social viability. Our rural  
5 communities gain from the benefits flowing from the fair industry. It  
6 is the intent of the legislature to quantify the economic and social  
7 impact of fairs on Washington state; to maintain funding mechanisms  
8 that support the capital needs of fairs; and to assess options for new  
9 capital funding sources to support fairs.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to the availability of funds  
11 appropriated specifically for this purpose, the department of  
12 agriculture shall contract for a study on the economic and social  
13 impact of agricultural fairs on Washington state. This study shall  
14 include, but is not limited to, developing information on (1) the  
15 statewide and local impacts of fairs on employment, business income,  
16 taxes resulting from fair activity, civic and charitable organizations,  
17 youth development, and other business and social benefits, and (2)  
18 needed capital improvements. The study shall seek assistance from the  
19 department of community, trade, and economic development to quantify  
20 the contribution by fairs and fairgrounds in attracting tourism to the  
21 state. An advisory group, appointed by the board of the Washington  
22 state fairs association, will help guide the study. The advisory group  
23 will include, but is not limited to, a staff person with expertise in  
24 economic analysis from the office of financial management, the house of  
25 representatives, and the senate. The department shall submit the  
26 report to the office of financial management and the appropriate  
27 committees of the legislature no later than June 30, 2006.

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