

2SSB 5362 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED 04/11/2021

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature found in 1961 that it
4 is in the public interest to hold agricultural fairs to train youth,
5 to educate the public about the production of food and fiber, and to
6 promote the welfare of farm people and rural living. The legislature
7 finds that the fair fund was created for the purpose of encouraging
8 agricultural fairs and training rural youth. The legislature finds
9 that despite the original expectations, the fair fund has not
10 increased, and this lack of increased support has made it difficult
11 to maintain youth programs. Research has shown that youth who
12 participate in fairs are more likely to get better grades, attend
13 college, and positively contribute to their families and communities.

14 (2) The legislature finds that fairs also contribute to economic
15 vitality and cultural heritage by: (a) Providing an opportunity for
16 small businesses to reach a larger customer base; (b) providing
17 agricultural suppliers a platform to showcase new technology; (c)
18 creating numerous seasonal jobs; (d) playing a vital role in fund-
19 raising for nonprofit organizations; and (e) providing a venue for
20 community and cultural events.

21 (3) The legislature further finds that events held on fairgrounds
22 support both the cultural and economic development of rural
23 communities. The legislature finds that connecting the fair fund to
24 revenue generated on fairgrounds encourages fairs to work with local
25 businesses to increase economic opportunity. Thirty-seven counties
26 have a fair. Benton and Franklin counties share a fair. Mason county
27 currently does not have a fair.

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 15.76.115 and 2018 c 280 s 3 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The fair fund is created in the custody of the state
31 treasury.

1 (2) All moneys received by the department of agriculture for the
2 purposes of this fund and from RCW 67.16.105 shall be deposited into
3 the fund. Each fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer into
4 the fair fund from the general fund ((the sum of two million
5 dollars)) an amount appropriated in the omnibus operating
6 appropriations act equal to:

7 (a) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

8 (b) \$2,750,000 in each fiscal year 2022 and 2023;

9 (c) \$3,500,000 in each fiscal year 2024 and 2025; and

10 (d) \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year
11 thereafter.

12 (e) To support inclusiveness at fair events, a portion of the
13 additional funds provided to fairs as a result of this act must be
14 prioritized to be spent on educational programs and outreach that are
15 reflective of the diversity within a fair's local population.

16 (3) Expenditures from the fund may be used only for assisting
17 fairs in the manner provided in this chapter. Only the director of
18 agriculture or the director's designee may authorize expenditures
19 from the fund. The fund is subject to allotment procedures under
20 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for
21 expenditures."

EFFECT: Requires a portion of the additional funds provided to fairs as a result of this act to be prioritized for education and outreach reflective of the diversity within a fair's local population.

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