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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1456**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** House Community & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Rule, Ramel, Robertson, Lekanoff, Shewmake, and Harris-Talley)

READ FIRST TIME 02/15/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to minimum staffing levels for Washington main  
2 street programs; adding a new section to chapter 43.360 RCW; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.360  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department must establish a pilot project grant program  
8 to award grants to programs applying for designation as an official  
9 local main street program. The purpose of the grant program is to  
10 assist with costs related to establishing a minimum level of staffing  
11 as required by the department.

12 (2) The department must establish criteria for awarding grants  
13 under this section. At a minimum, the department must require that  
14 grant applicant programs:

15 (a) Be located within a city with a population of fewer than  
16 20,000;

17 (b) Be an established 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) nonprofit  
18 organization with the sole mission of revitalizing a historic  
19 downtown commercial district;

20 (c) Report to the department on the diversity of the program's  
21 overseeing board;

- 1 (d) Have no paid staff at the time of application; and  
2 (e) Pay their program's executive director a competitive salary  
3 that is equal to or more than the industry standard for similar jobs  
4 in the same geographic area.  
5 (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
6 specific purpose, the department must provide for ongoing additional  
7 staff as needed to administer the grant program created in this  
8 section.  
9 (4) This section expires June 30, 2025.

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