

~~Government Reform and Land~~ Use Committee

BILL ANALYSIS

HCR 4432

Title of the Bill: Urging the Legislature to select a Joint Committee on Rural Land Use and Economic Development.

What this Bill Does: Creates a Joint Committee on Rural Land Use and Economic Development.

Sponsors: Representatives Mulliken, Gardner, Mielke, Kessler, Honeyford, DeBolt, Buck, Parlette, Linville, McMorris, Sehlin, Quall, Pennington, Boldt, Schoesler, Johnson, Sump, Sheahan, Clements, Chandler, Doumit, Hatfield, Lisk, Anderson, Morris, Mastin, Dunn, Alexander, Grant, Delvin, Hankins, Eickmeyer, Skinner and Conway

Hearing Date: 2/23/98

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Analysis Prepared By: Joan Elgee, 786-7135

BACKGROUND:

The Growth Management Act (GMA) was enacted in 1990 and 1991. The GMA establishes requirements for all counties and cities in the state, and imposes additional requirements on the faster growing counties. A city follows the lead of the county in which it is located. Counties and cities subject to all the requirements of the GMA are typically referred to as counties and cities planning under the GMA. A county may also choose to be subject to the planning requirements.

The primary planning requirement is the adoption of comprehensive plans. The plan must include the following elements:

- A **land use** element;
- A **housing** element;
- A **rural** element;
- A **capital facilities plan** element;
- A **utilities** element; and
- A **transportation** element.

The Legislature has specified 13 planning goals to guide the development of the

comprehensive plans. These include the encouragement of development in urban areas and the reduction of sprawl. The economic development goal identifies, among other things, the encouragement of economic development throughout the state, and growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth. The legislative findings adopted when the GMA was enacted also state that it is in the public interest that economic development programs be shared with communities experiencing insufficient economic growth.

Many of the rural areas of the state are experiencing high unemployment and are having difficulty attracting new industry.

SUMMARY:

A Joint Select Committee on Rural Land Use and Economic Development is established. The purpose of the committee is to develop recommendations regarding economic development in rural areas consistent with the GMA.

Legislative findings are stated regarding the GMA's direction to encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth. A finding is made that the Legislature should continue the process of working with rural areas to develop land use laws that contribute to the economic development of rural areas without compromising their unique features.

The Committee is to consist of 10 members from rural districts. Three members from each house are to be from the majority caucus, and two are to be from the minority caucus.

The Committee is to report its interim findings and recommendations by December 31, 1998 and make its final report by December 31, 1999.