
HOUSE BILL 1499

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Schoesler, Sheahan, Doumit, Morris, Tokuda, Kessler, Scott and Dickerson; by request of Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development

Read first time 01/28/97. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to a rural development council; adding new sections
2 to chapter 43.31 RCW; providing an effective date; providing an
3 expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.31 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The Washington state rural development council is established
8 and governed by an executive committee consisting of eleven members,
9 appointed by the governor. The members will include representatives
10 from the following categories: Business; natural resources;
11 agriculture; environment; economic development; education; health;
12 human services; counties; cities; and tribal governments.

13 (2) New members of the executive committee are appointed for terms
14 of three years from the current membership list of the rural
15 development council, as much as possible. Committee members should be
16 people who either live, work, or provide direct services in rural
17 areas. As a transition strategy for the council, four representatives
18 (business, counties, health, agriculture) will be appointed in 1997,
19 four (human services, natural resources, cities, environment) in 1998,

1 and three (economic development, tribal government, education) in 1999.
2 The new council will be fully formed in 1999.

3 (3) The governor shall make appointments from a list of candidates
4 generated by the executive committee. The executive committee shall
5 generate a list of at least three but not more than six candidates from
6 recommendations from state-wide associations. The list of candidates
7 for the county representative shall be generated by the Washington
8 state association of counties. The list of candidates for the city
9 representative shall be generated by the association of Washington
10 cities. In making appointments, the governor shall consider an
11 equitable geographic distribution.

12 (4) Members of the Washington state rural development council
13 executive committee will be reimbursed for travel expenses based on
14 need and as provided in state rules subject to legislative
15 appropriation and federal award.

16 (5) The department of community, trade, and economic development
17 may provide staff support, administrative assistance, and office space
18 to the council as available.

19 (6) The Washington state rural development council executive
20 committee is authorized to establish operating procedures, policies,
21 and bylaws, and appoint committees. In addition, the executive
22 committee is responsible for hiring, evaluating, and if necessary,
23 firing the executive director according to state policies and rules.

24 (7) The Washington state rural development council is directed to:
25 Inform legislators, the governor's office, state agencies, and federal
26 agencies about the rural perspective on community development issues;
27 identify and in some cases develop recommended improvements to existing
28 resource delivery systems; and serve as a liaison or intermediary
29 between rural communities and public and private resource providers.
30 The council's mission is to improve the delivery and accessibility of
31 public and private resources to meet the needs of rural communities.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.31 RCW
33 to read as follows:

34 The legislature encourages state agencies to contribute financially
35 to the rural development council. In addition to the United States
36 department of agriculture and the state department of community, trade,
37 and economic development, all state agencies, federal agencies, and
38 state-wide associations that make a significant financial contribution

1 to the rural development council shall be ex officio nonvoting members.
2 In particular, state agencies serving rural areas, including the
3 departments of agriculture, fish and wildlife, ecology, employment
4 security, health, natural resources, social and health services, and
5 transportation, and the utilities and transportation commission, are
6 encouraged to contribute financially. Financial contributions from
7 state agencies along with those from the private sector and state-wide
8 associations will enable the rural development council to leverage
9 federal funds at a three-to-one ratio annually.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire June 30,
11 2003.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
14 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
15 July 1, 1997.

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