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HOUSE BILL 1500

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Mastin, Grant, Doumit and Kessler; by request of  
County Road Administration Board

Read first time 01/29/97. Referred to Committee on Transportation  
Policy & Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to eligibility for the rural arterial program; and  
2 amending RCW 36.79.010, 36.79.020, 36.79.040, 36.79.050, 36.79.060, and  
3 36.79.140.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.79.010 and 1988 c 26 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this  
8 chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Rural arterial program" means improvement projects on those  
10 (~~two systems of~~) county roads in rural areas classified as (~~major~~  
11 ~~collectors and minor~~) rural arterials and collectors in accordance  
12 with the federal functional classification system and the construction  
13 of replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program  
14 on access roads in rural areas.

15 (2) "Rural area" means every area of the state outside of areas  
16 designated as urban areas by the state transportation commission with  
17 the approval of the secretary of the United States department of  
18 transportation in accordance with federal law.

1 (3) "Board" means the county road administration board created by  
2 RCW 36.78.030.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.79.020 and 1988 c 26 s 2 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 There is created in the motor vehicle fund the rural arterial trust  
6 account. All moneys deposited in the motor vehicle fund to be credited  
7 to the rural arterial trust account shall be expended for (1) the  
8 construction and improvement of county (~~major and minor collectors in~~  
9 ~~rural areas~~) rural arterials and collectors, (2) the construction of  
10 replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program on  
11 access roads in rural areas, and (3) (~~for~~) those expenses of the  
12 board associated with the administration of the rural arterial program.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.79.040 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 s 4 are each amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 Funds available for expenditure by the board pursuant to RCW  
16 36.79.020 shall be apportioned to the five regions for expenditure upon  
17 county arterials in rural areas in the following manner:

18 (1) One-third in the ratio which the land area of the rural areas  
19 of each region bears to the total land area of all rural areas of the  
20 state;

21 (2) Two-thirds in the ratio which the mileage of county (~~major and~~  
22 ~~minor~~) arterials and collectors in rural areas of each region bears to  
23 the total mileage of county (~~major and minor~~) arterials and  
24 collectors in all rural areas of the state.

25 The board shall adjust the schedule for apportionment of such funds  
26 to the five regions in the manner provided in this section before the  
27 commencement of each fiscal biennium.

28 **Sec. 4.** RCW 36.79.050 and 1988 c 26 s 3 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

30 At the beginning of each fiscal biennium, the board shall establish  
31 apportionment percentages for the five regions defined in RCW 36.79.030  
32 in the manner prescribed in RCW 36.79.040 for that biennium. The  
33 apportionment percentages shall be used once each calendar quarter by  
34 the board to apportion funds credited to the rural arterial trust  
35 account that are available for expenditure for rural (~~major and~~  
36 ~~minor~~) arterial and collector projects and for construction of

1 replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program on  
2 access roads in rural areas. The funds so apportioned shall remain  
3 apportioned until expended on construction projects in accordance with  
4 rules of the board. Within each region, funds shall be allocated by  
5 the board to counties for the construction of specific rural arterial  
6 and collector projects (~~(on major and minor collectors)~~) and  
7 construction of replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge  
8 replacement program on access roads in rural areas in accordance with  
9 the procedures set forth in this chapter.

10 **Sec. 5.** RCW 36.79.060 and 1988 c 26 s 4 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 The board shall:

13 (1) Adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this  
14 chapter relating to the allocation of funds in the rural arterial trust  
15 account to counties;

16 (2) Adopt reasonably uniform design standards for county (~~major~~  
17 ~~and minor~~) rural arterials and collectors that meet the requirements  
18 for trucks transporting commodities;

19 (3) Report biennially on the first day of November of the even-  
20 numbered years to the legislative transportation committee and the  
21 house and senate transportation committees regarding the progress of  
22 counties in developing plans for their rural (~~major and minor~~)  
23 arterial and collector construction programs and the construction of  
24 replacement bridges funded by the federal bridge replacement program on  
25 access roads in rural areas and the allocation of rural arterial trust  
26 funds to the counties.

27 **Sec. 6.** RCW 36.79.140 and 1991 c 363 s 84 are each amended to read  
28 as follows:

29 At the time the board reviews the six-year program of each county  
30 each even-numbered year, it shall consider and shall approve for  
31 inclusion in its recommended budget, as required by RCW 36.79.130, the  
32 portion of the rural arterial construction program scheduled to be  
33 performed during the biennial period beginning the following July 1st.  
34 Subject to the appropriations actually approved by the legislature, the  
35 board shall as soon as feasible approve rural arterial trust account  
36 funds to be spent during the ensuing biennium for preliminary proposals  
37 in priority sequence as established pursuant to RCW 36.79.090. Only

1 those counties that during the preceding twelve months have spent all  
2 revenues collected for road purposes only for such purposes, including  
3 traffic law enforcement, as are allowed to the state by Article II,  
4 section 40 of the state Constitution are eligible to receive funds from  
5 the rural arterial trust account: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That counties with  
6 a population of (~~from five thousand to~~) less than eight thousand are  
7 exempt from this eligibility restriction: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That  
8 counties expending revenues collected for road purposes only on other  
9 governmental services after authorization from the voters of that  
10 county under RCW 84.55.050 are also exempt from this eligibility  
11 restriction. The board shall authorize rural arterial trust account  
12 funds for the construction project portion of a project previously  
13 authorized for a preliminary proposal in the sequence in which the  
14 preliminary proposal has been completed and the construction project is  
15 to be placed under contract. At such time the board may reserve rural  
16 arterial trust account funds for expenditure in future years as may be  
17 necessary for completion of preliminary proposals and construction  
18 projects to be commenced in the ensuing biennium.

19 The board may, within the constraints of available rural arterial  
20 trust funds, consider additional projects for authorization upon a  
21 clear and conclusive showing by the submitting county that the proposed  
22 project is of an emergent nature and that its need was unable to be  
23 anticipated at the time the six-year program of the county was  
24 developed. The proposed projects shall be evaluated on the basis of  
25 the priority rating factors specified in RCW 36.79.080.

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