
HOUSE BILL 2400

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Schoesler, Sheahan, Kessler and Linville; by request of Washington State Rural Development Council

Read first time 01/13/98. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the rural development council; amending RCW
2 43.31.855; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.31.855 and 1997 c 377 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

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

12 (2) ((New)) Members of the executive committee are appointed for
13 terms of three years from the current membership list of the rural
14 development council, as much as possible. Committee members should be
15 people who either live, work, or provide direct services in rural
16 areas. Committee membership must consist of no less than ninety
17 percent of the members living in a rural area. As a transition
18 strategy for the council and its existing executive committee, four
19 representatives (business, counties, health, agriculture) will be

1 appointed in 1997, four (human services, natural resources, cities,
2 environment) in 1998, and three (economic development, tribal
3 government, education) in 1999. The new (~~council~~) executive
4 committee will be fully formed in 1999.

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

14 (4) Members of the Washington state rural development council
15 executive committee shall receive no compensation for their services,
16 but shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for travel expenses as
17 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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

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

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

35 (8) This section expires June 30, 2003.

--- END ---