
SENATE BILL 6534

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Loveland and Prince

Read first time 01/21/98. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to defining distressed area for purposes of
2 economic assistance; and amending RCW 43.165.010 and 43.168.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.165.010 and 1996 c 290 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires to the contrary, the
7 definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

8 (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
9 economic development.

10 (2) "Director" means the director of the department.

11 (3) "Distressed area" means: (a) A county that has an unemployment
12 rate that is twenty percent above the state-wide average for the
13 previous three years; (b) a county that has a median household income
14 that is less than seventy-five percent of the state median household
15 income for the previous three years; (c) a community or area that has
16 experienced sudden and severe or long-term and severe loss of
17 employment, or erosion of its economic base due to decline of its
18 dominant industries; ~~((or))~~ (d) an area within a county which area:
19 (i) Is composed of contiguous census tracts; (ii) has a minimum

1 population of five thousand persons; (iii) has at least seventy percent
2 of its families and unrelated individuals with incomes below eighty
3 percent of the county's median income for families and unrelated
4 individuals; and (iv) has an unemployment rate which is at least forty
5 percent higher than the county's unemployment rate; or (e) a county
6 that has a proportion of its population enrolled in medical assistance
7 that is forty percent or more above the state average for the previous
8 three years. For purposes of this definition, "families and unrelated
9 individuals" has the same meaning that is ascribed to that term by the
10 federal department of housing and urban development in its regulations
11 authorizing action grants for economic development and neighborhood
12 revitalization projects.

13 (4) "Economic development revolving loan funds" means a local, not-
14 for-profit or governmentally sponsored business loan program.

15 (5) "Team" means the community revitalization team.

16 (6) "Technical assistance" includes, but is not limited to,
17 assistance with strategic planning, market research, business plan
18 development review, organization and management development, accounting
19 and legal services, grant and loan packaging, and other assistance
20 which may be expected to contribute to the redevelopment and economic
21 well-being of a distressed area.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.168.020 and 1996 c 290 s 3 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
25 this section apply throughout this chapter.

26 (1) "Committee" means the Washington state development loan fund
27 committee.

28 (2) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
29 economic development.

30 (3) "Director" means the director of community, trade, and economic
31 development.

32 (4) "Distressed area" means: (a) A county which has an
33 unemployment rate which is twenty percent above the state average for
34 the immediately previous three years; (b) a county that has a median
35 household income that is less than seventy-five percent of the state
36 median household income for the previous three years; (c) a
37 metropolitan statistical area, as defined by the office of federal
38 statistical policy and standards, United States department of commerce,

1 in which the average level of unemployment for the calendar year
2 immediately preceding the year in which an application is filed under
3 this chapter exceeds the average state unemployment for such calendar
4 year by twenty percent; (d) an area within a county, which area: (i)
5 Is composed of contiguous census tracts; (ii) has a minimum population
6 of five thousand persons; (iii) has at least seventy percent of its
7 families and unrelated individuals with incomes below eighty percent of
8 the county's median income for families and unrelated individuals; and
9 (iv) has an unemployment rate which is at least forty percent higher
10 than the county's unemployment rate; ~~((or))~~ (e) a county designated as
11 a rural natural resources impact area under RCW 43.31.601 if an
12 application is filed by July 1, 1997; or (f) a county that has a
13 proportion of its population enrolled in medical assistance that is
14 forty percent or more above the state average for the previous three
15 years. For purposes of this definition, "families and unrelated
16 individuals" has the same meaning that is ascribed to that term by the
17 federal department of housing and urban development in its regulations
18 authorizing action grants for economic development and neighborhood
19 revitalization projects.

20 (5) "Fund" means the Washington state development loan fund.

21 (6) "Local development organization" means a nonprofit organization
22 which is organized to operate within an area, demonstrates a commitment
23 to a long-standing effort for an economic development program, and
24 makes a demonstrable effort to assist in the employment of unemployed
25 or underemployed residents in an area.

26 (7) "Project" means the establishment of a new or expanded business
27 in an area which when completed will provide employment opportunities.
28 "Project" also means the retention of an existing business in an area
29 which when completed will provide employment opportunities.

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