

1869

Sponsor(s): Representatives Reams, Romero, Cairnes, Mulliken, Fisher, Gardner, Lantz, Dunshee, Linville, Chopp, Regala, Cody, Blalock, Conway, Costa, Mason, Kenney, Anderson and Kessler; by request of Governor Locke

Brief Title: Implementing the recommendations of the land use study commission.

HB 1869 - DIGEST

Finds that in developing its rural element under RCW 36.70A.070(5), a county should foster land use patterns and develop a local vision of rural character that: Will help preserve rural-based economies and traditional rural lifestyles; will foster opportunities for small-scale, rural-based employment and self-employment; will permit the operation of rural-based commercial, recreational, and tourist businesses that are consistent with existing and planned land use patterns; be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; will foster the private stewardship of the land and preservation of open space; and will enhance the rural sense of community and quality of life.

Declares an intent that the boards apply a more deferential standard of review to actions of counties and cities than the preponderance of the evidence standard provided for under existing law. In recognition of the broad range of discretion that may be exercised by counties and cities consistent with the requirements of this chapter, the legislature intends for the boards to grant deference to counties and cities in how they plan for growth, consistent with the requirements and goals of this chapter. Local comprehensive plans and development regulations require counties and cities to balance priorities and options for action in full consideration of local circumstances. The legislature finds that while this chapter requires local planning to take place within a framework of state goals and requirements, the ultimate burden and responsibility for planning and implementing a county's or city's future rests with that community.