
HOUSE BILL 2969

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Eickmeyer, Dunn, Veloria and Kessler; by request of Lieutenant Governor

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to local economic development capacity; and
2 amending RCW 43.330.070.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.330.070 and 1993 c 280 s 10 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall work closely with local communities to
7 increase their capacity to respond to economic, environmental, and
8 social problems and challenges. The department shall coordinate the
9 delivery of development services and technical assistance to local
10 communities or regional areas. It shall promote partnerships between
11 the public and private sectors and between state and local officials to
12 encourage appropriate economic growth and opportunity in communities
13 throughout the state, in particular strategies designed to encourage
14 economic growth and opportunities in community empowerment zones
15 designated under RCW 43.63A.700. The department shall promote
16 appropriate local development by: Supporting the ability of
17 communities to develop and implement strategic development plans;
18 assisting businesses to start up, maintain, or expand their operations;
19 encouraging public infrastructure investment and private and public

1 capital investment in local communities; supporting efforts to manage
2 growth and provide affordable housing and housing services; providing
3 for the identification and preservation of the state's historical and
4 cultural resources; and expanding employment opportunities.

5 (2) The department shall define a set of services including
6 training and technical assistance that it will make available to local
7 communities, community-based nonprofit organizations, regional areas,
8 industry clusters, or businesses. The department shall simplify access
9 to these programs by providing more centralized and user-friendly
10 information and referral. The department shall coordinate community
11 and economic development efforts to minimize program redundancy and
12 maximize accessibility. The department shall develop a set of criteria
13 for targeting services to local communities.

14 (3) The department shall develop a coordinated and systematic
15 approach to providing training to community-based nonprofit
16 organizations, local communities, industry clusters, and businesses.
17 The approach shall be designed to increase the economic and community
18 development skills available in local communities by providing training
19 and funding for training for local citizens, nonprofit organizations,
20 industry clusters, and businesses. The department shall emphasize
21 providing training in those communities most in need of state
22 assistance.

23 (4) As used in this section, "industry clusters" means a geographic
24 concentration of interdependent competitive firms that do business with
25 each other. Clusters also include firms that sell inside and outside
26 of the geographic region as well as support firms that supply raw
27 materials, components, and business services.

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