
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6617

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Hale and Rasmussen; by request of Lieutenant Governor

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to local economic development capacity; amending
2 RCW 43.330.070; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

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.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that economic
29 development, work force training, international trade, tourism
30 development, housing assistance, assistance to local governments, and
31 other programs and services provided by the department of community,
32 trade, and economic development are vital to all regions of the state.
33 The legislature further finds that program development and service
34 delivery to the eastern region of the state could be significantly
35 enhanced by a continuous, full-time physical staff presence in that
36 region.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** For the purposes of this act:

1 (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
2 economic development, or its successor agency or agencies.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In order to more effectively respond to the
5 needs of eastern Washington communities, the department shall, as soon
6 as practicable, establish a field office and a full-time staff presence
7 in eastern Washington. If practicable, the office shall be colocated
8 with one or more existing state agencies in the Tri-Cities area to
9 facilitate the urgent economic development needs of southeastern
10 Washington. This office shall be staffed by the director in the most
11 efficient manner that is likely to provide improved service to eastern
12 Washington communities.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Program activities and priorities for this
14 office serving eastern Washington shall be determined by the director,
15 in consultation with local government officials, business, labor, and
16 educational advisors from the region.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
20 immediately.

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