
HOUSE BILL 1843

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee, Mitchell, Miloscia, Hankins, Rockefeller and Delvin

Read first time 02/06/2001. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing criteria for setting population
2 projections for counties and cities planning under the growth
3 management act; and amending RCW 36.70A.110 and 43.62.035.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.110 and 1997 c 429 s 24 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Each county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW
8 36.70A.040 shall designate an urban growth area or areas within
9 which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth
10 can occur only if it is not urban in nature. Each city that is
11 located in such a county shall be included within an urban growth
12 area. An urban growth area may include more than a single city. An
13 urban growth area may include territory that is located outside of
14 a city only if such territory already is characterized by urban
15 growth whether or not the urban growth area includes a city, or is
16 adjacent to territory already characterized by urban growth, or is
17 a designated new fully contained community as defined by RCW
18 36.70A.350.

1 (2) Based upon the growth management population projection made
2 for the county by the office of financial management, the county
3 and each city within the county shall include areas and densities
4 sufficient to permit the urban growth that is projected to occur
5 in the county or city for the succeeding twenty-year period. Each
6 urban growth area shall permit urban densities and shall include
7 greenbelt and open space areas. An urban growth area determination
8 (~~may~~) shall include for the county and each city within the
9 county, a reasonable land market supply factor, an analysis of
10 existing water resources and water rights sufficient to serve the
11 projected growth, the equitable distribution of population density
12 across a county's urban growth areas, and state highway capacity
13 sufficient to serve the projected growth, and shall permit a range
14 of urban densities and uses. In determining this market factor,
15 cities and counties (~~may~~) shall consider local
16 circumstances. Cities and counties have discretion in their
17 comprehensive plans to make many choices about accommodating
18 growth.

19 Within one year of July 1, 1990, each county that as of June 1,
20 1991, was required or chose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, shall
21 begin consulting with each city located within its boundaries and
22 each city shall propose the location of an urban growth area.
23 Within sixty days of the date the county legislative authority of
24 a county adopts its resolution of intention or of certification by
25 the office of financial management, all other counties that are
26 required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall begin this
27 consultation with each city located within its boundaries. The
28 county shall attempt to reach agreement with each city on the
29 location of an urban growth area within which the city is
30 located. If such an agreement is not reached with each city located
31 within the urban growth area, the county shall justify in writing
32 why it so designated the area an urban growth area. A city may
33 object formally with the department over the designation of the
34 urban growth area within which it is located. Where appropriate,
35 the department shall attempt to resolve the conflicts, including
36 the use of mediation services.

37 (3) Urban growth should be located first in areas already
38 characterized by urban growth that have adequate existing public

1 facility and service capacities to serve such development, second
2 in areas already characterized by urban growth that will be served
3 adequately by a combination of both existing public facilities and
4 services and any additional needed public facilities and services
5 that are provided by either public or private sources, and third
6 in the remaining portions of the urban growth areas. Urban growth
7 may also be located in designated new fully contained communities
8 as defined by RCW 36.70A.350.

9 (4) In general, cities are the units of local government most
10 appropriate to provide urban governmental services. In general, it
11 is not appropriate that urban governmental services be extended to
12 or expanded in rural areas except in those limited circumstances
13 shown to be necessary to protect basic public health and safety
14 and the environment and when such services are financially
15 supportable at rural densities and do not permit urban
16 development.

17 (5) On or before October 1, 1993, each county that was
18 initially required to plan under RCW 36.70A.040(1) shall adopt
19 development regulations designating interim urban growth areas
20 under this chapter. Within three years and three months of the date
21 the county legislative authority of a county adopts its resolution
22 of intention or of certification by the office of financial
23 management, all other counties that are required or choose to plan
24 under RCW 36.70A.040 shall adopt development regulations
25 designating interim urban growth areas under this chapter. Adoption
26 of the interim urban growth areas may only occur after public
27 notice; public hearing; and compliance with the state
28 environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, and RCW
29 36.70A.110. Such action may be appealed to the appropriate growth
30 management hearings board under RCW 36.70A.280. Final urban growth
31 areas shall be adopted at the time of comprehensive plan adoption
32 under this chapter.

33 (6) Each county shall include designations of urban growth
34 areas in its comprehensive plan.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.62.035 and 1997 c 429 s 26 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 The office of financial management shall determine the

1 population of each county of the state annually as of April 1st of
2 each year and on or before July 1st of each year shall file a
3 certificate with the secretary of state showing its determination
4 of the population for each county. The office of financial
5 management also shall determine the percentage increase in
6 population for each county over the preceding ten-year period, as
7 of April 1st, and shall file a certificate with the secretary of
8 state by July 1st showing its determination. At least once every
9 five years or upon the availability of decennial census data,
10 whichever is later, and taking into consideration population
11 trends of the previous ten years and an analysis of existing water
12 resources and water rights sufficient to serve the projected
13 growth, the office of financial management shall prepare twenty-
14 year growth management planning population projections required by
15 RCW 36.70A.110 for each county that adopts a comprehensive plan
16 under RCW 36.70A.040 and shall review these projections with such
17 counties and the cities in those counties before final
18 adoption. The county and its cities may provide to the office such
19 information as they deem relevant to the office's projection, and
20 the office shall consider and comment on such information before
21 adoption. Each projection shall be expressed as a reasonable range
22 developed within the standard state high and low projection. The
23 middle range shall represent the office's estimate of the most
24 likely population projection for the county. If any city or county
25 believes that a projection will not accurately reflect actual
26 population growth in a county, it may petition the office to
27 revise the projection accordingly. The office shall complete the
28 first set of ranges for every county by December 31, 1995.

29 A comprehensive plan adopted or amended before December 31,
30 1995, shall not be considered to be in noncompliance with the
31 twenty-year growth management planning population projection if
32 the projection used in the comprehensive plan is in compliance
33 with the range later adopted under this section.

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