
HOUSE BILL 2980

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Kessler, Lantz, Hinkle, McCoy, Newhouse, Veloria, Dunshee, O'Brien, Blake, Buck, Hatfield and Chase

Read first time 01/26/2004. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to economic development of historic county
2 courthouses; adding a new section to chapter 27.34 RCW; creating a new
3 section; making an appropriation; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that twenty-eight of
6 the state's thirty-nine currently operating county courthouses appear
7 to meet the state criteria as historic buildings. Washington's
8 historic county courthouses are an unsurpassed historical and
9 architectural collection reflecting civic pride, local heritage, and
10 master craftsmanship. These buildings are intensively used by the
11 public as the seats of county government and as judicial and criminal
12 justice centers. As anchors of the downtown commercial cores of their
13 communities, these courthouses strengthen local commerce, attract
14 tourism, and provide a sense of identity. Capital improvements to
15 these landmarks are needed to protect their safety and historic and
16 architectural integrity.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 27.34 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) The historic county courthouse grant program is established for
2 the protection and preservation of the state's historic county
3 courthouses.

4 (2) The historic county courthouse account is created in the state
5 treasury. Legislative appropriations for the purpose of the historic
6 county courthouse grant program shall be deposited to the account.
7 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
8 Expenditures from the account shall be used exclusively to fund the
9 historic county courthouse grant program.

10 (3) The office of archaeology and historic preservation within the
11 department of community, trade, and economic development shall
12 administer the historic county courthouse grant program. No more than
13 one percent of the expenditures from the historic county courthouse
14 account may be used for the administrative purposes of the department.
15 All other expenditures from the account shall be for grants to be made
16 to counties for the protection and preservation of courthouses that
17 meet the eligibility requirements for listing on the Washington
18 heritage register established under RCW 27.34.220. Counties receiving
19 grants under this section shall provide an equal amount of matching
20 funds from public or private sources.

21 (4) By October 1, 2004, the department shall establish eligibility
22 criteria and a grant application process. Grants may be made for
23 courthouse protection and preservation, including character defining
24 architectural features, general repairs, system upgrades, and
25 improvements to access and accommodations for persons with
26 disabilities. All rehabilitation work shall comply with the federal
27 department of the interior's standards for rehabilitation. Grants
28 shall not be used for expenditures for courthouse maintenance. Only
29 counties with historic courthouses that continue to maintain county
30 functions are eligible for grants under this section.

31 (5) The office of archaeology and historic preservation shall
32 establish an historic courthouse advisory board that includes two
33 county elected officials appointed by the Washington state association
34 of counties, two county elected officials appointed by the Washington
35 association of county officials, a representative of a statewide
36 historic preservation organization, a representative from a county
37 heritage commission that is a certified local government, a member of
38 the senate appointed by the president of the senate, a member of the

1 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of
2 representatives, a member of the state advisory council on historic
3 preservation, and up to three at-large members with expertise in
4 architecture, architectural history, construction, construction
5 management, engineering, planning, or a related field.

6 (6) If available funds in the account exceed eligible courthouse
7 grant recipients, historic county-owned facilities such as libraries,
8 museums, and hospitals may apply for grants using the same criteria.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of ten million dollars is
10 appropriated from the state building construction account for the
11 fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, to the historic county courthouse
12 account. The department of community, trade, and economic development
13 may expend up to ten million dollars from the account during the fiscal
14 year ending June 30, 2005, to carry out the purposes of section 2 of
15 this act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect July 1, 2004.

--- END ---