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HOUSE BILL 3068

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Clibborn and Romero

Read first time 01/27/2004. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to annexation; and creating new sections.

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

3            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The state's growth management act recognizes  
4 counties are the logical provider of regional services and cities are  
5 the preferred provider of local services within the urban growth area.  
6 This delineation of service roles is meant to ensure that government  
7 services are provided in an efficient and effective manner and is  
8 reflective of the fact that cities have more revenue tools available to  
9 them to provide urban services than do counties. Pursuant to the  
10 growth management act planning requirements set forth in RCW  
11 36.70A.110, counties are required to establish urban growth areas in  
12 collaboration with cities.

13            In order for urban growth areas to become part of an existing city,  
14 counties, cities, and residents are highly reliant on one tool:  
15 Annexation. Though state law provides for various methods of  
16 annexation, there are many factors which prevent or delay annexation  
17 from occurring.

18            The transition of urban growth areas to incorporated status is  
19 fundamental to achieving the land use and service vision contemplated

1 by the growth management act, and enabling counties to focus on their  
2 long-term role as regional service provider and rural service provider.  
3 Therefore, it is in the best interest of the state, counties, cities,  
4 and their residents to study the progress of annexation in the key  
5 urban counties of the state and to identify both barriers and  
6 incentives to achieving full annexation or incorporation of the urban  
7 areas in these counties.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to legislative funding, the  
9 department of community, trade, and economic development shall conduct  
10 a study to:

11 (1) Detail the progress in each of the buildable land counties to  
12 date in achieving annexation or incorporation of its urban growth area  
13 since adoption of the county's county-wide planning policies to the  
14 present time by documenting:

15 (a) The number of acres annexed;

16 (b) The number of acres incorporated;

17 (c) The number of residents annexed, incorporated, and remaining in  
18 urban unincorporated areas; and

19 (d) The characteristic of urban land remaining unincorporated in  
20 terms of assessed value, infrastructure deficits, service needs, land  
21 use, commercial development, and residential development;

22 (2) Determine the characteristics of remaining urban unincorporated  
23 areas and current statutes, and estimate when all urban unincorporated  
24 areas in each county will be annexed or incorporated, based on the rate  
25 of progress to date;

26 (3) Survey the counties to identify those obstacles which, in their  
27 experience, slow or prohibit annexation;

28 (4) Survey the cities in each of the subject counties to identify  
29 obstacles, which in their experience, slow or prohibit annexation;

30 (5) Survey residents of urban unincorporated areas in each of the  
31 subject counties to identify their attitudes towards annexation or  
32 incorporation;

33 (6) Propose possible changes to city and county taxing authority  
34 which will serve to aid the transfer of annexation of remaining urban  
35 growth areas in a timely manner;

36 (7) Identify and discuss the need for funding of capital  
37 improvement projects needed to provide urban levels of service;

1 (8) Assess the role and statutory authority of the boundary review  
2 board and how altering their role and authority might facilitate  
3 annexation;

4 (9) Propose possible changes to growth management or annexation  
5 processes which will facilitate annexation.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The study in section 2 of this act is not  
7 intended to replicate the requirements to review and evaluate growth as  
8 set forth in RCW 36.70A.215.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of community, trade, and  
10 economic development shall report the findings and results of its study  
11 to the Washington state senate and house of representatives committees  
12 on economic development by November 30, 2004. The department of  
13 community, trade, and economic development may report electronically,  
14 and shall post its report on its web site.

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