

HB 2096 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that
4 agricultural fairs and fairgrounds provide numerous economic and social
5 benefits to Washington state. The enhancements of tourism, promotion
6 of local commerce, rural economic development, disaster preparedness,
7 and opportunities for youth are all part of the multifaceted, year-
8 round fair industry.

9 Fairgrounds host a variety of commercial and social events year
10 round. They offer educational, cultural, and entertainment events,
11 promote youth development, and contribute to community cohesiveness.
12 Fairs and fairgrounds provide community groups with fund-raising
13 opportunities that, in turn, provide a variety of social benefits to
14 the community.

15 Participants and attendees contribute to the local economy through
16 purchase of food, lodging, and supplies. Fair operations also
17 contribute to the local economy through the purchase of equipment,
18 materials, supplies, advertising, hiring local labor, and numerous
19 other elements that are related to the operations of the fairgrounds.

20 The best interest of the state is achieved when we encourage all
21 venues that enhance economic and social viability. Our rural
22 communities gain from the benefits flowing from the fair industry. It
23 is the intent of the legislature to quantify the economic and social
24 impact of fairs on Washington state; to maintain funding mechanisms
25 that support the capital needs of fairs; and to assess options for new
26 capital funding sources to support fairs.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to the availability of funds
28 appropriated specifically for this purpose, the department of
29 agriculture shall contract for a study on the economic and social

1 impact of agricultural fairs on Washington state. This study shall
2 include, but is not limited to, developing information on (1) the
3 statewide and local impacts of fairs on employment, business income,
4 taxes resulting from fair activity, civic and charitable organizations,
5 youth development, and other business and social benefits, and (2)
6 needed capital improvements. The person conducting the study shall
7 seek assistance from the department of community, trade, and economic
8 development to quantify the contribution by fairs and fairgrounds in
9 attracting tourism to the state. An advisory group, appointed by the
10 board of the Washington state fairs association, will help guide the
11 study. The advisory group will include, but is not limited to, up to
12 three persons with expertise in economic analysis. The department
13 shall submit the report to the office of financial management and the
14 appropriate committees of the legislature no later than June 30, 2006."

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15 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "state;" strike the remainder
16 of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

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