
SENATE BILL 6600

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Jacobsen and Berkey

Read first time 01/16/2006. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to residential density on islands consisting of
2 rural lands; and amending RCW 36.70A.011.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.011 and 2002 c 212 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that this chapter is intended to
7 recognize the importance of rural lands and rural character to
8 Washington's economy, its people, and its environment, while respecting
9 regional differences. Rural lands and rural-based economies enhance
10 the economic desirability of the state, help to preserve traditional
11 economic activities, and contribute to the state's overall quality of
12 life.

13 The legislature finds that to retain and enhance the job base in
14 rural areas, rural counties must have flexibility to create
15 opportunities for business development. Further, the legislature finds
16 that rural counties must have the flexibility to retain existing
17 businesses and allow them to expand. The legislature recognizes that
18 not all business developments in rural counties require an urban level

1 of services; and that many businesses in rural areas fit within the
2 definition of rural character identified by the local planning unit.

3 Finally, the legislature finds that in defining its rural element
4 under RCW 36.70A.070(5), a county should foster land use patterns and
5 develop a local vision of rural character that will: Help preserve
6 rural-based economies and traditional rural lifestyles; encourage the
7 economic prosperity of rural residents; foster opportunities for small-
8 scale, rural-based employment and self-employment; permit the operation
9 of rural-based agricultural, commercial, recreational, and tourist
10 businesses that are consistent with existing and planned land use
11 patterns; be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for
12 fish and wildlife habitat; foster the private stewardship of the land
13 and preservation of open space; and enhance the rural sense of
14 community and quality of life.

15 (2) For a planning area that is coterminous with an island, is
16 designated entirely for rural uses under RCW 36.70A.070(5), and is
17 located in a county consisting entirely of islands and having a
18 population density greater than one hundred persons per square mile,
19 nothing in this chapter requires a maximum residential density.

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