

HB 2649 - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Finds that there is a large, unmet need for affordable housing in the state of Washington.

Declares that a decent, appropriate, and affordable home in a healthy, safe environment for every low-income household by 2020 is a goal for state and local governments and all housing organizations and related vendors. Furthermore, this goal includes increasing the percentage of low-income households who are able to obtain and retain housing without government subsidies or other public support.

Finds that the continual systematic collection and rigorous evaluation of comprehensive data regarding the state's affordable housing stock and persons requiring affordable housing is critical to planning for and achieving the state's affordable housing goal.

Finds that there are many root causes of the affordable housing shortage and declares that it is critical that such causes be analyzed, effective solutions be developed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated, and that these causal factors be eliminated.

Finds that there is a taxpayer and societal cost associated with a lack of living wage jobs and affordable housing and that state and local governments must identify and quantify that cost.

Finds that the support and commitment of all sectors of the statewide community is critical to accomplishing the state's affordable housing for all goal.

Finds that the provision of housing and housing-related services should be administered at the local level. However, the state should play a primary role in: Researching, evaluating, benchmarking, and implementing best practices; continually updating and evaluating statewide housing data; developing a statewide plan to achieve the affordable housing for all goal; coordinating and supporting local government plans and activities; and providing quality management by monitoring both state and local government performance towards achieving interim and ultimate goals.

Declares that the systematic and comprehensive performance measurement and evaluation of progress toward interim goals and the ultimate state affordable housing goal of a decent, appropriate, and affordable home in a healthy, safe environment for every low-income household in the state by 2020 is a necessary component of the statewide effort to end the lack of affordable housing crisis.

Appropriates the sum of two million dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the department of

community, trade, and economic development, for the purposes of accomplishing the planning, data system creation, data collection, and program implementation activities of this act. Of the two million dollars appropriated, the department of community, trade, and economic development shall distribute one million dollars to the participating local governments using a formula to be determined by the department and be used for local planning, data system creation, data collection, and program implementation purposes.