

SB 5018 - S AMD 46

By Senator Fairley

1 On page 7, after line 28, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The legislature finds that working
3 forests, farmlands, and open rural zoned lands in the central Puget
4 Sound region are rapidly being converted to other uses. More than
5 eighteen thousand acres of forests and farms in King, Pierce,
6 Snohomish, and Kittitas counties are developed each year, a trend that
7 threatens the state's farm and forestry economies. The legislature
8 further finds that if conversion rates are not controlled, the four
9 hundred thousand acres of rural and agricultural zoned lands in King,
10 Pierce, and Snohomish counties will be fractionated in the next twenty
11 years, and will likely be developed by the end of the twenty-first
12 century.

13 (2) The legislature also finds that this pattern of growth leads to
14 a number of unfavorable conditions, including: (a) The removal of
15 large areas from economically beneficial agricultural and forestry
16 uses; (b) the loss of an important and diversified industry sector and
17 associated employment; (c) the wasteful use of scarce public funds for
18 roads, infrastructure, and fire and safety services; (d) reductions in
19 carbon sequestration benefits from forestry uses; (e) inefficient water
20 withdrawals; and (f) the generation of polluted storm water from
21 impervious surfaces.

22 (3) The legislature intends to provide for an examination of the
23 environmental, economic, and social consequences of current and
24 expected patterns of growth in rural and resource lands, and to secure
25 a common understanding of associated factors. The legislature intends
26 for this examination to result in a widely accepted strategy for
27 identifying how best to maintain the character of rural and resource
28 lands in ways that: (a) Support the goals of the growth management act
29 and the Puget Sound regional council's vision 2040, goals and
30 objectives that direct growth into existing cities and towns; (b)

1 respect landowner rights, values, and concerns; (c) assist in
2 maintaining forest and farmlands and their associated employment; and
3 (d) support Puget Sound restoration activities.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
5 for the specific purposes of this section, the William D. Ruckelshaus
6 Center, in partnership with the Puget Sound regional council, must
7 conduct an examination of trends affecting, and policies guiding, the
8 maintenance of rural and resource lands in Washington. The examination
9 must commence by July 1st of the year in which funds are made
10 available.

11 (2) In fulfilling the requirements of this section, the center
12 must: (a) Work and consult with willing participants including, but
13 not limited to, stakeholders representing agricultural, environmental,
14 forestry, development, realty, tribal, and local government interests;
15 and (b) involve and apprise legislators and legislative staff of its
16 efforts.

17 (3) The center must conduct fact-finding and stakeholder
18 discussions with participants identified in subsection (2) of this
19 section. These discussions must identify stakeholder concerns,
20 barriers, opportunities, and desired principles for maintaining rural
21 character and conserving resource lands. The fact-finding must
22 identify existing regulatory, management, and scientific information
23 related to rates of growth in rural and resource lands, and associated
24 policies guiding development in these lands. The center must issue two
25 reports of its fact-finding efforts and stakeholder discussions to the
26 governor and the appropriate committees of the house of representatives
27 and the senate: One by December 1st of the year in which funds for the
28 examination become available; and one by the following July 1st.

29 (4) The center must facilitate discussions between the stakeholders
30 identified in subsection (2) of this section for the purposes of
31 identifying options and recommendations for addressing expected growth
32 in a manner that maintains rural character and conserves forest, farm,
33 and natural areas.

34 (5) The center must work to achieve agreement among participating
35 stakeholders and to develop a coalition that can be used to support
36 agreed upon changes or new approaches to: (a) Maintaining the

1 character of rural lands; and (b) conserving agricultural and forest
2 lands of long-term significance.

3 (6) The center must issue a final report of findings and
4 legislative recommendations to the governor and the appropriate
5 committees of the house of representatives and the senate by September
6 1st of the year following the year in which funds for the examination
7 become available.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 43.79 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) The rural and resource lands study account is created in the
11 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from gifts, grants, and
12 endowments from public or private sources, in trust or otherwise, shall
13 be deposited into the account. Moneys from the state general fund may
14 not be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may
15 be used only for an examination that complies with the requirements of
16 section 7 of this act. Only the director of the department of
17 community, trade, and economic development or the director's designee
18 may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to
19 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
20 required for expenditures.

21 (2) The legislature intends for the rural and resource lands study
22 account established in this section to be populated exclusively with
23 nongeneral fund moneys."

24 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
25 internal references accordingly.

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26 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "RCW;" strike all material
27 through "section" and insert "adding a new section to chapter 43.79
28 RCW; creating new sections"

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