
HOUSE BILL 2243

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 3rd Special Session
By Representatives McCaslin and Barkis

1 AN ACT Relating to the siting of schools and school facilities;
2 and adding a new section to chapter 36.70A RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) This chapter does not prohibit a county planning under RCW
7 36.70A.040 from authorizing the extension of public facilities and
8 utilities to serve a school sited in a rural area that serves
9 students from a rural area and an urban area so long as the following
10 requirements are met:

11 (a) The applicable school district board of directors has adopted
12 a policy addressing school service area and facility needs and
13 educational program requirements;

14 (b) The applicable school district has made a finding, with the
15 concurrence of the county legislative authority and the legislative
16 authorities of any affected cities, that the district's proposed site
17 is suitable to site the school and any associated recreational
18 facilities that the district has determined cannot reasonably be
19 collocated on an existing school site, taking into consideration the
20 policy adopted in (a) of this subsection and the extent to which

1 vacant or developable land within the growth area meets those
2 requirements;

3 (c) The county and any affected cities agree to the extension of
4 public facilities and utilities to serve the school sited in a rural
5 area that serves urban and rural students at the time of concurrence
6 in (b) of this subsection;

7 (d) If the public facility or utility is extended beyond the
8 urban growth area to serve a school, the public facility or utility
9 must serve only the school and the costs of such extension must be
10 borne by the applicable school district based on a reasonable nexus
11 to the impacts of the school, except as provided in subsection (3) of
12 this section; and

13 (e) Any impacts associated with the siting of the school are
14 mitigated as required by the state environmental policy act, chapter
15 43.21C RCW.

16 (2) This chapter does not prohibit either the expansion or
17 modernization of an existing school in the rural area or the
18 placement of portable classrooms at an existing school in the rural
19 area.

20 (3) Where a public facility or utility has been extended beyond
21 the urban growth area to serve a school, the public facility or
22 utility may, where consistent with RCW 36.70A.110(4), serve a
23 property or properties in addition to the school if the property
24 owner so requests, provided that the county and any affected cities
25 agree with the request and provided that the property is located no
26 further from the public facility or utility than the distance that,
27 if the property were within the urban growth area, the property would
28 be required to connect to the public facility or utility. In such an
29 instance, the school district may, for a period not to exceed twenty
30 years, require reimbursement from a requesting property owner for a
31 proportional share of the construction costs incurred by the school
32 district for the extension of the public facility or utility.

33 (4) By December 1, 2023, the department shall report to the
34 governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature about
35 schools outside of urban growth areas that have been built, are under
36 construction, or are planned as a result of the requirements of this
37 act. The report shall include the number, location, and
38 characteristics of the schools; the number of urban and rural

1 students served; and a cost analysis of schools built outside of
2 urban growth boundaries.

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