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HOUSE BILL 2737

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Nealey, McBride, Lytton, Peterson, Griffey, Doglio, and Wylie

Read first time 01/15/18. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the constitutional and statutory  
2 obligations and tax revenue capacity of local government entities;  
3 creating a new section; making an appropriation; and providing an  
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of commerce must  
7 conduct a study that analyzes local governments' revenue capacity in  
8 relation to its constitutional and statutory obligations. At a  
9 minimum, the study must include:

10 (a) An overview of the major interdependencies of counties,  
11 cities, and special districts as they relate to state-mandated  
12 responsibilities;

13 (b) A listing of local government revenues, including local tax  
14 revenue authority and revenue shared by the state and federal  
15 government;

16 (c) A listing of all statutory and constitutional requirements  
17 and obligations and their associated costs;

18 (d) An analysis of where funding gaps are most pronounced, such  
19 as by issue area and specific areas of the state;

20 (e) How the situation has changed over the last thirty years;

1 (f) Baseline data and a methodology that can be replicated in  
2 future local government comparison studies and analysis; and

3 (g) How statutory revenue authority and spending obligations of  
4 Washington's local governments compare to a select number of  
5 competitor states.

6 (2) The department of commerce must provide a report on its  
7 findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate  
8 committees of the legislature by December 28, 2018.

9 (3) For the purposes of this section, "local government" means  
10 cities, counties, and special purpose districts.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
12 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
13 the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2019, from the liquor revolving  
14 fund to the department of commerce for the purposes of section 1 of  
15 this act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires June 30, 2019.

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