
HOUSE BILL 1456

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Rule, Ramel, Robertson, Lekanoff, Shewmake, and Harris-Talley

Read first time 02/02/21. Referred to Committee on Community & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to minimum staffing levels for Washington main
2 street programs; amending RCW 43.360.030; adding new sections to
3 chapter 43.360 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.360.030 and 2005 c 514 s 910 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall adopt criteria for the designation of
8 local downtown or neighborhood commercial district revitalization
9 programs and official local main street programs. In establishing the
10 criteria, the department shall consider:

11 (a) The degree of interest and commitment to comprehensive
12 downtown or neighborhood commercial district revitalization and,
13 where applicable, historic preservation by both the public and
14 private sectors;

15 (b) The evidence of potential private sector investment in the
16 downtown or neighborhood commercial district;

17 (c) Where applicable, a downtown or neighborhood commercial
18 district with sufficient historic fabric to become a foundation for
19 an enhanced community image;

20 (d) The capacity of the organization to undertake a comprehensive
21 program and the financial commitment to implement a long-term

1 downtown or neighborhood commercial district revitalization program
2 that includes a commitment to employ a professional program manager,
3 maintain a minimum level of staffing according to section 2 of this
4 act, and maintain a sufficient operating budget;

5 (e) The department's existing downtown revitalization program's
6 tier system;

7 (f) The national main street center's criteria for designating
8 official main street cities; and

9 (g) Other factors the department deems necessary for the
10 designation of a local program.

11 (2) The department shall designate local downtown or neighborhood
12 commercial district revitalization programs and official local main
13 street programs. The programs shall be limited to three categories of
14 designation, one of which shall be the main street level.

15 (3) RCW (~~82.73.010~~) 43.360.020 does not apply to any local
16 downtown or neighborhood commercial district revitalization program
17 unless the boundaries of the program have been identified and
18 approved by the department. The boundaries of a local downtown or
19 neighborhood commercial district revitalization program are typically
20 defined using the pedestrian core of a traditional commercial
21 district.

22 (4) The department may not designate a local downtown or
23 neighborhood commercial district revitalization program or official
24 local main street program if the program is undertaken by a local
25 government with a population of one hundred ninety thousand persons
26 or more.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.360
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) Each application for designation as an official local main
30 street program must include information demonstrating that the
31 applicant can maintain a minimum level of staffing to achieve the
32 applicant's mission, goals, and annual work plan.

33 (2) The minimum level of staffing required by subsection (1) of
34 this section is determined according to the population of the local
35 jurisdiction as follows:

36 (a) A jurisdiction with a population of 5,000 or fewer must
37 maintain at least a part-time, volunteer executive director;

1 (b) A jurisdiction with a population of greater than 5,000 but
2 fewer than 10,000 must maintain at least a half-time, paid executive
3 director; and

4 (c) A jurisdiction with a population of 10,000 or greater must
5 maintain at least a full-time, paid executive director.

6 (3) The minimum staffing level requirements in this section apply
7 only to programs created after the effective date of this section.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.360
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) The department must establish a pilot project grant program
11 to award grants to programs applying for designation as an official
12 local main street program. The purpose of the grant program is to
13 assist with costs related to establishing a minimum level of staffing
14 as required by section 2 of this act.

15 (2) In order to be eligible for a grant under this section, the
16 program applying for designation as an official local main street
17 program must:

18 (a) Be located within a city with a population of fewer than
19 20,000;

20 (b) Establish, to the satisfaction of the department, that
21 financial inability to meet minimum staffing level requirements under
22 section 2 of this act is a significant factor that is preventing the
23 program from qualifying for designation as an official local main
24 street program; and

25 (c) Report to the department on the diversity of the program's
26 overseeing board.

27 (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
28 specific purpose, the department must employ additional staff as
29 needed to administer the grant program created in this section.

30 (4) This section expires June 30, 2025.

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