
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5362

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators McCune and Warnick)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring the funding of agricultural fairs;
2 amending RCW 15.76.115; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature found in 1961 that it
5 is in the public interest to hold agricultural fairs to train youth,
6 to educate the public about the production of food and fiber, and to
7 promote the welfare of farm people and rural living. The legislature
8 finds that the fair fund was created for the purpose of encouraging
9 agricultural fairs and training rural youth. The legislature finds
10 that despite the original expectations, the fair fund has not
11 increased, and this lack of increased support has made it difficult
12 to maintain youth programs. Research has shown that youth who
13 participate in fairs are more likely to get better grades, attend
14 college, and positively contribute to their families and communities.

15 (2) The legislature finds that fairs also contribute to economic
16 vitality and cultural heritage by: (a) Providing an opportunity for
17 small businesses to reach a larger customer base; (b) providing
18 agricultural suppliers a platform to showcase new technology; (c)
19 creating numerous seasonal jobs; (d) playing a vital role in fund-
20 raising for nonprofit organizations; and (e) providing a venue for
21 community and cultural events.

1 (3) The legislature further finds that events held on fairgrounds
2 support both the cultural and economic development of rural
3 communities. The legislature finds that connecting the fair fund to
4 revenue generated on fairgrounds encourages fairs to work with local
5 businesses to increase economic opportunity. Thirty-seven counties
6 have a fair. Benton and Franklin counties share a fair. Mason county
7 currently does not have a fair.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 15.76.115 and 2018 c 280 s 3 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The fair fund is created in the custody of the state
11 treasury.

12 (2) All moneys received by the department of agriculture for the
13 purposes of this fund and from RCW 67.16.105 shall be deposited into
14 the fund. Each fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer into
15 the fair fund from the general fund (~~the sum of two million~~
16 dollars)) an amount appropriated in the omnibus operating
17 appropriations act equal to:

18 (a) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

19 (b) \$2,750,000 in each fiscal year 2022 and 2023;

20 (c) \$3,500,000 in each fiscal year 2024 and 2025; and

21 (d) \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year
22 thereafter.

23 (3) Expenditures from the fund may be used only for assisting
24 fairs in the manner provided in this chapter. Only the director of
25 agriculture or the director's designee may authorize expenditures
26 from the fund. The fund is subject to allotment procedures under
27 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

--- END ---