
SENATE BILL 5375

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Warnick, Fortunato, Rolfes, Van De Wege, and Wilson, J.

Read first time 01/28/21. Referred to Committee on Housing & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to a study of the differences in low-income
2 housing development in urban and rural locations; and creating new
3 sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that affordable
6 housing is reaching crisis levels in urban areas and in rural areas.
7 However, rural counties appear to be at a disadvantage to be
8 competitive for public housing tax money. The legislature finds that
9 in order to appropriately address affordable housing issues, it is
10 important to have a complete understanding of the differences between
11 rural and urban areas and the barriers to building affordable housing
12 in rural areas. The legislature finds that the joint legislative
13 audit and review committee is the best entity to review how
14 affordable housing is built in rural areas, what barriers are
15 present, and how these barriers may be overcome.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The joint legislative audit and review
17 committee must conduct a study of the differences in low-income
18 housing development in urban and rural locations. The review shall
19 include identifying the amount of publicly subsidized low-income
20 housing developed in urban and rural counties, as defined by RCW

1 82.14.370, between 2010 and 2020, and comparing it with the
2 demographics and populations of these counties. To the extent
3 practicable, the study shall review contributing factors that may
4 impact differences in the amount of development in urban and rural
5 counties. The study shall also determine what funding sources have
6 been provided to low-income housing projects built in rural counties
7 and in urban counties. This study shall be completed by December
8 2022.

--- END ---