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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5643**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Schoesler, Braun, Dozier, Rivers, Short, Wagoner, and Wellman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting youth development; amending RCW  
2 15.76.110, 15.76.115, 15.76.140, and 15.76.150; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 15.76 RCW; creating a new section; and making an  
4 appropriation.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** As of July 2019, almost 22 percent of the  
7 population of Washington state was under 18 years of age. The  
8 legislature finds that it is critical to invest in both the formal  
9 and informal education of the youth of the state. While there are  
10 existing youth development programs in the state, it is in the best  
11 interest of the state to sponsor youth agriculture education and  
12 development programs by voluntary grassroots advocacy organizations  
13 and career and technical student organizations focusing on  
14 agricultural education. In addition to science, technology,  
15 engineering, mathematics, and robotics, this youth development  
16 program must focus on animal husbandry and agricultural education.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 15.76  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) Voluntary, grassroots organizations representing the social  
20 and economic interest of farm and ranch families at the local, state,

1 and national levels may sponsor youth development programs to promote  
2 participation in agricultural fairs, youth shows, and exhibitions and  
3 education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and  
4 robotics as well as animal husbandry and agricultural education. The  
5 youth development program must incorporate civics, civil society, and  
6 participation in government into its programming.

7 (2) It is in the public interest to support youth participation  
8 in youth development programs as described in subsection (1) of this  
9 section, programs authorized in RCW 36.50.010, and membership in the  
10 Washington FFA association, which is the agricultural education  
11 career and technical student organization recognized by the office of  
12 the superintendent of public instruction. The legislature will  
13 appropriate funds to fulfill the enrollment fees owed to the programs  
14 by participants as a state allocation as defined in RCW 15.76.110.

15 (3) In order to receive appropriated funds, after the annual  
16 enrollment period, the program must submit a roster of enrolled youth  
17 to the department in order to receive a reimbursement of all  
18 enrollment fees. Any other fees submitted for reimbursement must be  
19 done before the end of the fiscal year.

20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 15.76.110 and 2018 c 280 s 2 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (1) "Agricultural fair" means a fair or exhibition which is  
23 intended to promote agriculture and support rural economic  
24 development by including a balanced variety of exhibits of livestock  
25 and agricultural products, as well as related arts and manufactures;  
26 including products of the farm home and educational contests,  
27 displays, and demonstrations designed to train youth and to promote  
28 the welfare of farm people and rural living.

29 (2) "Department" means the state department of agriculture.

30 (3) "Director" means the director of agriculture.

31 (4) "Commission" means the fairs commission created by this  
32 chapter.

33 (5) "State allocations" means allocations from the state fair  
34 fund.

35 (6) "Youth development program" means programs designed to  
36 educate youth in agriculture, animal husbandry, food preservation,  
37 civic engagement, science, technology, engineering, mathematics,  
38 mechanics, and other skills to promote healthy living, leadership,  
39 and engagement including, but not limited to, programs under section

1 2 of this act, programs authorized in RCW 36.50.010, and membership  
2 in the Washington FFA association.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 15.76.115 and 2021 c 245 s 2 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The fair fund is created in the custody of the state  
6 treasury.

7 (2) (a) All moneys received by the department of agriculture for  
8 the purposes of this fund and from RCW 67.16.105 shall be deposited  
9 into the fund. Each fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer  
10 into the fair fund from the general fund an amount appropriated in  
11 the omnibus operating appropriations act equal to:

12 ~~((a))~~ (i) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

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

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

15 ~~((d))~~ (iv) \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year  
16 thereafter.

17 ~~((e))~~ (b) To support inclusiveness at fair events, a portion of  
18 the additional funds provided to fairs as a result of chapter 245,  
19 Laws of 2021 must be prioritized to be spent on educational programs  
20 and outreach that are reflective of the diversity within a fair's  
21 local population.

22 (3) Expenditures from the fund may be used only for assisting  
23 fairs in the manner provided in this chapter, except as provided in  
24 subsection (4) of this section. Only the director of agriculture or  
25 the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the fund. The  
26 fund is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but  
27 no appropriation is required for expenditures.

28 (4) The director or the director's designee may authorize  
29 expenditures from the fund, subject to the availability of  
30 appropriations for this specific purpose, for the purpose of  
31 reimbursing the enrollment fees owed to the youth development  
32 programs under section 2 of this act.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 15.76.140 and 2018 c 280 s 5 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 (1) Before any agricultural fair may become eligible for state  
36 allocations it must have conducted two successful consecutive annual  
37 fairs immediately preceding application for such allocations, and  
38 have its application therefor approved by the director.

1 (2) The director may waive the requirement in subsection (1) of  
2 this section if:

3 (a) A county fair reorganizing as an area fair has, through a  
4 current or predecessor organization, received an allocation from the  
5 fair fund as a county fair for at least two years; or

6 (b) A fair is not held due to a natural disaster such as a flood  
7 or wildfire.

8 (3) Youth development programs are not subject to the eligibility  
9 requirements in this section and may receive funds to fulfill the  
10 enrollment fees owed to the youth development programs under section  
11 2 of this act subject to the availability of appropriations for this  
12 specific purpose.

13 **Sec. 6.** RCW 15.76.150 and 2018 c 280 s 6 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Using the department's forms, the board of trustees of any  
16 fair or youth show may apply to the department for allocations from  
17 the state fair fund.

18 (2)(a) The director may allocate (~~ninety-five~~) 95 percent of  
19 the state fair fund, including its interest income under RCW  
20 43.79A.040, to applicant agricultural fairs, distributed according to  
21 merit as measured by a merit rating to be set up by the director.  
22 This merit rating must take into account such factors as area and  
23 population served, open and/or youth participation, attendance, gate  
24 receipts, number and type of exhibits, premiums paid, community  
25 support, evidence of successful achievement of the aims and purposes  
26 of the fair, extent of improvements made to grounds and facilities  
27 from year to year, and overall condition and appearance of grounds  
28 and facilities.

29 (b) The department may use up to (~~ten~~) 10 percent of the amount  
30 allocated in (a) of this subsection for special assistance to any  
31 participating fair or fairs.

32 (c) The department may use the remaining five percent of money in  
33 the state fair fund for expenses incurred in the administration of  
34 this chapter, which may include the fair commission expenses approved  
35 by the director.

36 (3) The division and payment of funds authorized in this section  
37 shall occur at such times as the director may prescribe.

38 (4) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the director  
39 or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the fund,

1 subject to the availability of appropriations for this specific  
2 purpose, for the purpose of reimbursing the enrollment fees owed to  
3 the youth development programs under section 2 of this act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of \$500,000, or as much thereof as  
5 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
6 2023, from the general fund to the fair fund created in RCW 15.76.115  
7 for the purposes specified in section 2 of this act.

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