
SENATE BILL 5524

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Short and Wilson, L.

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to agency obligations; and amending RCW
2 36.70A.190 and 36.70A.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.190 and 1991 sp.s. c 32 s 3 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall establish a program of technical and
7 financial assistance and incentives to counties and cities to
8 encourage and facilitate the adoption and implementation of
9 comprehensive plans and development regulations throughout the state.

10 (2) The department shall develop a priority list and establish
11 funding levels for planning and technical assistance grants both for
12 counties and cities that plan under RCW 36.70A.040. Priority for
13 assistance shall be based on a county's or city's population growth
14 rates, commercial and industrial development rates, the existence and
15 quality of a comprehensive plan and development regulations, and
16 other relevant factors.

17 (3) The department shall develop and administer a grant program
18 to provide direct financial assistance to counties and cities for the
19 preparation of comprehensive plans under this chapter. The department
20 may establish provisions for county and city matching funds to
21 conduct activities under this subsection. Grants may be expended for

1 any purpose directly related to the preparation of a county or city
2 comprehensive plan as the county or city and the department may
3 agree, including, without limitation, the conducting of surveys,
4 inventories and other data gathering and management activities, the
5 retention of planning consultants, contracts with regional councils
6 for planning and related services, and other related purposes.

7 (4) The department shall establish a program of technical
8 assistance:

9 (a) Utilizing department staff, the staff of other state
10 agencies, and the technical resources of counties and cities to help
11 in the development of comprehensive plans required under this
12 chapter.

13 (i) The technical assistance may include, but not be limited to,
14 model land use ordinances, regional education and training programs,
15 and information for local and regional inventories(~~and~~).

16 (ii) Any technical assistance or guidance provided by the
17 department or any other state agency must include a section analyzing
18 the effects of implementation. Implementation of agency guidance must
19 not result in any net loss of current or future built environment.

20 (b) Adopting by rule procedural criteria to assist counties and
21 cities in adopting comprehensive plans and development regulations
22 that meet the goals and requirements of this chapter. These criteria
23 shall reflect regional and local variations and the diversity that
24 exists among different counties and cities that plan under this
25 chapter.

26 (5) The department shall provide mediation services to resolve
27 disputes between counties and cities regarding, among other things,
28 coordination of regional issues and designation of urban growth
29 areas.

30 (6) The department shall provide planning grants to enhance
31 citizen participation under RCW 36.70A.140.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.70A.050 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 5 are each
33 amended to read as follows:

34 (1) Subject to the definitions provided in RCW 36.70A.030, the
35 department shall adopt guidelines, under chapter 34.05 RCW, no later
36 than September 1, 1990, to guide the classification of: (a)
37 Agricultural lands; (b) forestlands; (c) mineral resource lands; and
38 (d) critical areas. The department shall consult with the department
39 of agriculture regarding guidelines for agricultural lands, the

1 department of natural resources regarding forestlands and mineral
2 resource lands, and the department of ecology regarding critical
3 areas. Guidelines developed in accordance with this section must
4 include analyses of the effect of the guidelines on lands within the
5 city or county and implementation of the guidelines must not result
6 in a net loss of current or future built environment.

7 (2) In carrying out its duties under this section, the department
8 shall consult with interested parties, including but not limited to:

9 (a) Representatives of cities; (b) representatives of counties; (c)
10 representatives of developers; (d) representatives of builders; (e)
11 representatives of owners of agricultural lands, forestlands, and
12 mining lands; (f) representatives of local economic development
13 officials; (g) representatives of environmental organizations; (h)
14 representatives of special districts; (i) representatives of the
15 governor's office and federal and state agencies; and (j)
16 representatives of Indian tribes. In addition to the consultation
17 required under this subsection, the department shall conduct public
18 hearings in the various regions of the state. The department shall
19 consider the public input obtained at such public hearings when
20 adopting the guidelines.

21 (3) The guidelines under subsection (1) of this section shall be
22 minimum guidelines that apply to all jurisdictions, but also shall
23 allow for regional differences that exist in Washington state. The
24 intent of these guidelines is to assist counties and cities in
25 designating the classification of agricultural lands, forestlands,
26 mineral resource lands, and critical areas under RCW 36.70A.170.

27 (4) The guidelines established by the department under this
28 section regarding classification of forestlands shall not be
29 inconsistent with guidelines adopted by the department of natural
30 resources.

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