
SENATE BILL 5882

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Skratek, Erwin, Bluechel, Sheldon, M. Rasmussen and Winsley

Read first time 02/22/93. Referred to Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to a Washington council for the future; adding new
2 sections to chapter 43.31 RCW; creating a new section; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that in 1988 the
6 Washington state economic development board issued its report,
7 "Washington Works Worldwide," which laid out a long-term economic
8 strategy for Washington state. As a result of the lack of an
9 independent oversight board, many of the board's recommendations were
10 not acted upon and the goals of the strategy remain unmet. An
11 independent board could serve to keep both private and public sectors
12 focused on the goals of the strategy and measure progress towards those
13 goals.

14 The legislature further finds that benchmarks can be useful tools
15 for measuring the state's progress in meeting its long-term economic
16 goals. Benchmarks that measure outcomes rather than inputs can lead to
17 a better understanding of current economic conditions and future
18 opportunities. Benchmarks focused on outcomes also increase

1 accountability and make it easier to adapt and modify programs based on
2 their effectiveness in achieving the benchmarks.

3 The legislature further finds that people are what drive economic
4 development and a competent, skilled work force is a competitive
5 advantage in today's global economy. Many factors go into the making
6 of a productive work force and these can be measured at every stage of
7 life.

8 The legislature further finds that the high quality of life to
9 which this state's citizens have become accustomed should not be
10 sacrificed to economic growth. Maintaining a high quality of life can
11 enhance economic development by supporting an environment in which
12 entrepreneurs seek to create or relocate enterprises.

13 (2) It is the purpose of this act to establish an independent
14 oversight board to assist the state in measuring its progress in
15 achieving its long-term economic development goals. It is also the
16 purpose of this act to require the development of measurable benchmarks
17 to ensure that the state remain on the path toward its goals of a more
18 diversified economy which generates productive jobs and higher incomes
19 and a high quality of life for its citizens.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.31 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 (1)(a) There is created a Washington council for the future
23 composed of seven members appointed by the governor.

24 (b) In making appointments, the governor shall ensure that
25 membership of the council is representative of the ethnic, cultural,
26 social, and economic diversity of the state. At least two members must
27 reside east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

28 (c) Members of the council shall serve for six-year terms, except
29 the first members of the council shall serve for staggered terms, with
30 two members to serve two-year terms, two members to serve four-year
31 terms, and three members to serve six-year terms. A member of the
32 council may not serve for more than two terms.

33 (2) The responsibilities of the council include monitoring the
34 state's economic and social well-being, reporting to the governor and
35 the legislature on the state's progress in meeting its long-term
36 economic development goals, and assisting agencies in adopting
37 benchmarks as a strategic planning tool.

1 (3) The board shall be formed and ready to assume its duties under
2 this chapter by August 1, 1993.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.31 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The Washington council for the future created in section 2 of
6 this act shall develop benchmarks that measure the social and economic
7 well-being of the state. The benchmarks shall:

8 (a) Place a priority on measuring results rather than efforts;

9 (b) Enable the state to be compared, as much as possible, with
10 other states and countries; and

11 (c) Measure the three general categories of (i) human resources,
12 (ii) economic health, and (iii) quality of life.

13 (2) In developing specific benchmarks, the council shall provide
14 for public comment.

15 (3) The council shall work cooperatively with the appropriate
16 agencies in collecting data necessary to measure progress in achieving
17 benchmarks. The council shall also educate agencies on the usefulness
18 of benchmarks in strategic planning and assist agencies in developing
19 additional results-oriented performance measures.

20 (4) The council shall report to the legislature concerning the
21 state's performance on the benchmarks not later than December 15 of
22 every even-numbered year, beginning in 1994. The council shall
23 identify those benchmarks where the state is failing to meet
24 expectations of performance. The board should also highlight areas
25 where the state has been unusually successful at reaching measurable
26 objectives. The report may also discuss the creation of additional
27 benchmarks.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of three hundred fifty thousand
29 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
30 the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the
31 department of trade and economic development for the purposes of this
32 act.

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