

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6731

As of February 2, 2010

Title: An act relating to the establishment of the Washington trade corps fellowship program.

Brief Description: Establishing the Washington trade corps fellowship program.

Sponsors: Senators Shin, Kastama, Hobbs and Berkey.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/02/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

Background: The realities of global competition have increased the necessity of having citizens who not only understand the importance of international trade to Washington's economy, but also understand the mechanics of engaging in international trade. Even companies that sell only domestically are influenced by foreign suppliers and competition. Undergraduate and graduate students with international experience often hold a distinct advantage in the job market over their peers who don't have such experience.

Summary of Bill: The Washington Trade Corps Fellowship Program is created at the University of Washington Center for International Business Education and Research (Center). The Center will place up to 15 Washington college and graduate students per year in foreign trade offices as fellows. The foreign trade offices may be operated by a private company or by the departments of Agriculture or Commerce. Applicants for the fellowships must be enrolled in a school offering a credential in a field that would prepare them for international work and be proficient in the language of the country where they are placed. Fellows are to serve from six to 18 months and receive a stipend of at least \$10,000 plus living and travel expenses.

The center is to appoint a committee to assist in evaluating applicants and selecting fellows. Assignments are made in consultation with the fellow's college. Reports to the center are required in addition to any requirements of the fellow's college. Post-fellowship employment with a trading company or a department may be required.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fellows are to follow U.S. travel advisories and neither the Center, the trading companies, the state, nor the colleges are liable for injuries caused by changes in the security status of placement countries.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 28, 2010.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill is important to boost the state's economic development. Too few students have the opportunity to travel abroad. The state will realize a direct benefit to its economy. People trained in this program will be invaluable in making our trade missions more effective.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Shin, prime sponsor; Jono Hanes, Associated Students of the UW; Ralph Monroe, Worldwide Connections.