
HOUSE BILL 1128

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By Representatives Kenney, Bailey, Pettigrew, Chase, Hudgins, Haler, Hasegawa, Darneille, Kelley, and Sullivan

Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Community & Economic Development & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to innovation partnership zones; and amending RCW
2 43.330.270 and 43.330.280.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.330.270 and 2007 c 227 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department shall design and implement an innovation
7 partnership zone program through which the state will encourage and
8 support research institutions, workforce training organizations, and
9 globally competitive companies to work cooperatively in close
10 geographic proximity to create commercially viable products and jobs.

11 (2) The director shall designate innovation partnership zones on
12 the basis of the following criteria:

13 (a) Innovation partnership zones must have three types of
14 institutions operating within their boundaries, or show evidence of
15 planning and local partnerships that will lead to dense concentrations
16 of these institutions:

17 (i) Research capacity in the form of a university or community
18 college fostering commercially valuable research, nonprofit

1 institutions creating commercially applicable innovations, or a
2 national laboratory;

3 (ii) Dense proximity of globally competitive firms in a research-
4 based industry or industries or of individual firms with innovation
5 strategies linked to (a)(i) of this subsection. A globally competitive
6 firm may be signified through international organization for
7 standardization 9000 or 1400 certification, or other recognized
8 evidence of international success; and

9 (iii) Training capacity either within the zone or readily
10 accessible to the zone. The training capacity requirement may be met
11 by the same institution as the research capacity requirement, to the
12 extent both are associated with an educational institution in the
13 proposed zone.

14 (b) The support of a local jurisdiction, a research institution, an
15 educational institution, an industry or cluster association, a
16 workforce development council, and an associate development
17 organization, port, or chamber of commerce;

18 (c) Identifiable boundaries for the zone within which the applicant
19 will concentrate efforts to connect innovative researchers,
20 entrepreneurs, investors, industry associations or clusters, and
21 training providers. The geographic area defined should lend itself to
22 a distinct identity and have the capacity to accommodate firm growth;

23 (d) The innovation partnership zone administrator must be an
24 economic development council, port, workforce development council,
25 city, or county.

26 ~~((+2))~~ (3) With respect solely to the research capacity required
27 in subsection (2)(a)(i) of this section, the director may waive the
28 requirement that the research institution be located within the zone.
29 To be considered for such a waiver, an applicant must provide a
30 specific plan that demonstrates the research institution's unique
31 qualifications and suitability for the zone, and the types of jointly
32 executed activities that will be used to ensure ongoing, face-to-face
33 interaction and research collaboration among the zone's partners.

34 (4) On October 1st of each odd-numbered year, the director shall
35 designate innovation partnership zones on the basis of applications
36 that meet the legislative criteria, estimated economic impact of the
37 zone, evidence of forward planning for the zone, and other criteria as
38 recommended by the Washington state economic development commission.

1 Estimated economic impact must include evidence of anticipated private
2 investment, job creation, innovation, and commercialization. The
3 director shall require evidence that zone applicants will promote
4 commercialization, innovation, and collaboration among zone residents.

5 ~~((+3))~~ (5) Innovation partnership zones are eligible for funds and
6 other resources as provided by the legislature or at the discretion of
7 the governor.

8 ~~((+4))~~ (6) If the innovation partnership zone meets the other
9 requirements of the fund sources, then the zone is eligible for the
10 following funds relating to:

11 (a) The local infrastructure financing tools program;

12 (b) The sales and use tax for public facilities in rural counties;
13 and

14 (c) Job skills.

15 ~~((+5))~~ (7) An innovation partnership zone shall be designated as
16 a zone for a four-year period. At the end of the four-year period, the
17 zone must reapply for the designation through the department.

18 ~~((+6))~~ (8) If the director finds at any time after the initial
19 year of designation that an innovation partnership zone is failing to
20 meet the performance standards required in its contract with the
21 department, the director may withdraw such designation and cease state
22 funding of the zone.

23 (9) The department shall convene annual information sharing events
24 for innovation partnership zone administrators and other interested
25 parties.

26 ~~((+7))~~ (10) An innovation partnership zone shall provide
27 performance measures as required by the director, including but not
28 limited to private investment measures, job creation measures, and
29 measures of innovation such as licensing of ideas in research
30 institutions, patents, or other recognized measures of innovation.

31 (11) The department shall compile a biennial report on the
32 innovation partnership zone program by December 1st of every even-
33 numbered year. The report shall provide information on the objectives,
34 major activities, partnerships, performance measures, and outcomes of
35 each zone. The Washington state economic development commission shall
36 review ~~((annually the individual innovation partnership zone's~~
37 ~~performance measures and make recommendations to the department~~
38 ~~regarding additional zone designation criteria)) the department's draft~~

1 report and make recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness
2 of individual zones and the program overall. The department shall
3 submit the report, including the commission's recommendations, to the
4 governor and legislature beginning December 1, 2010.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.330.280 and 2007 c 227 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The Washington state economic development commission shall,
8 with the advice of an innovation partnership advisory group selected by
9 the commission(~~(, have oversight responsibility for the implementation~~
10 ~~of the state's efforts to further innovation partnerships throughout~~
11 ~~the state. The commission shall))):~~

12 (a) Provide information and advice to the department of community,
13 trade, and economic development to assist in the implementation of the
14 innovation partnership zone program, including criteria to be used in
15 the selection of grant applicants for funding;

16 (b) Document clusters of companies throughout the state that have
17 comparative competitive advantage or the potential for comparative
18 competitive advantage, using the process and criteria for identifying
19 strategic clusters developed by the working group specified in
20 subsection (2) of this section;

21 (c) Conduct an innovation opportunity analysis to identify (i) the
22 strongest current intellectual assets and research teams in the state
23 focused on emerging technologies and their commercialization, and (ii)
24 faculty and researchers that could increase their focus on
25 commercialization of technology if provided the appropriate technical
26 assistance and resources;

27 (d) Based on its findings and analysis, and in conjunction with the
28 higher education coordinating board and research institutions:

29 (i) Develop a plan to build on existing, and develop new,
30 intellectual assets and innovation research teams in the state in
31 research areas where there is a high potential to commercialize
32 technologies. The commission shall present the plan to the governor
33 and legislature by December 31, ((2007)) 2009. The higher education
34 coordinating board shall be responsible for implementing the plan in
35 conjunction with the publicly funded research institutions in the
36 state. The plan shall address the following elements and such other
37 elements as the commission deems important:

1 (A) Specific mechanisms to support, enhance, or develop innovation
2 research teams and strengthen their research and commercialization
3 capacity in areas identified as useful to strategic clusters and
4 innovative firms in the state;

5 (B) Identification of the funding necessary for laboratory
6 infrastructure needed to house innovation research teams;

7 (C) Specification of the most promising research areas meriting
8 enhanced resources and recruitment of significant entrepreneurial
9 researchers to join or lead innovation research teams;

10 (D) The most productive approaches to take in the recruitment, in
11 the identified promising research areas, of a minimum of ten
12 significant entrepreneurial researchers over the next ten years to join
13 or lead innovation research teams;

14 (E) Steps to take in solicitation of private sector support for the
15 recruitment of entrepreneurial researchers and the commercialization
16 activity of innovation research teams; and

17 (F) Mechanisms for ensuring the location of innovation research
18 teams in innovation partnership zones;

19 (ii) Provide direction for the development of comprehensive
20 entrepreneurial assistance programs at research institutions. The
21 programs may involve multidisciplinary students, faculty,
22 entrepreneurial researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors in building
23 business models and evolving business plans around innovative ideas.
24 The programs may provide technical assistance and the support of an
25 entrepreneur-in-residence to innovation research teams and offer
26 entrepreneurial training to faculty, researchers, undergraduates, and
27 graduate students. Curriculum leading to a certificate in
28 entrepreneurship may also be offered;

29 (e) Develop performance measures to be used in evaluating the
30 performance of innovation research teams, the implementation of the
31 plan and programs under (d)(i) and (ii) of this subsection, and the
32 performance of innovation partnership zone grant recipients, including
33 but not limited to private investment measures, business initiation
34 measures, job creation measures, and measures of innovation such as
35 licensing of ideas in research institutions, patents, or other
36 recognized measures of innovation. The performance measures developed
37 shall be consistent with the economic development commission's
38 comprehensive plan for economic development and its standards and

1 metrics for program evaluation. The commission shall report to the
2 legislature and the governor by (~~December 31, 2008~~) June 30, 2009, on
3 the measures developed; and

4 (f) Using the performance measures developed, perform a biennial
5 assessment and report, the first of which shall be due December 31,
6 2012, on:

7 (i) Commercialization of technologies developed at state
8 universities, found at other research institutions in the state, and
9 facilitated with public assistance at existing companies;

10 (ii) Outcomes of the funding of innovation research teams and
11 recruitment of significant entrepreneurial researchers;

12 (iii) Comparison with other states of Washington's outcomes from
13 the innovation research teams and efforts to recruit significant
14 entrepreneurial researchers; and

15 (iv) Outcomes of the grants for innovation partnership zones.
16 The report shall include recommendations for modifications of chapter
17 227, Laws of 2007 and of state commercialization efforts that would
18 enhance the state's economic competitiveness.

19 (2) The economic development commission and the workforce training
20 and education coordinating board shall jointly convene a working group
21 to:

22 (a) Specify the process and criteria for identification of substate
23 geographic concentrations of firms or employment in an industry and the
24 industry's customers, suppliers, supporting businesses, and
25 institutions, which process will include the use of labor market
26 information from the employment security department and local labor
27 markets; and

28 (b) Establish criteria for identifying strategic clusters which are
29 important to economic prosperity in the state, considering cluster
30 size, growth rate, and wage levels among other factors.

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