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HOUSE BILL 1131

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State of Washington

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2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Pettigrew, Haler, Ericks, Bailey, Lias, Hasegawa, Hudgins, Darneille, Chase, Dunshee, Kelley, Sullivan, and Nelson

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

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington state economic development  
2 commission; amending RCW 43.162.010 and 43.162.020; and adding a new  
3 section to chapter 43.162 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.162.010 and 2007 c 232 s 2 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The Washington state economic development commission is  
8 established to (~~oversee the economic development strategies and~~  
9 ~~policies of the department of community, trade, and economic~~  
10 ~~development~~)) provide the governor and legislature with policy  
11 analysis, strategic planning, program evaluation, and monitoring of the  
12 state's economic development system.

13 (2)(a) The Washington state economic development commission shall  
14 consist of eleven voting members appointed by the governor as follows:  
15 Six representatives of the private sector, one representative of labor,  
16 one representative of port districts, one representative of four-year  
17 state public higher education, one representative for state community  
18 or technical colleges, and one representative of associate development  
19 organizations. The director of the department of community, trade, and

1 economic development, the director of the workforce training and  
2 education coordinating board, the commissioner of the employment  
3 security department, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the  
4 standing committees of the house of representatives and the senate  
5 overseeing economic development policies shall serve as nonvoting ex  
6 officio members.

7 The chair of the commission shall be a voting member selected by  
8 the governor (~~(with the consent of the senate)~~), and shall serve at the  
9 pleasure of the governor. In selecting the chair, the governor shall  
10 seek a person who understands the future economic needs of the state  
11 and nation and the role the state's economic development system has in  
12 meeting those needs.

13 (b) In making the appointments, the governor shall consult with  
14 organizations that have an interest in economic development, including,  
15 but not limited to, industry associations, labor organizations,  
16 minority business associations, economic development councils, chambers  
17 of commerce, port associations, tribes, and the chairs of the  
18 legislative committees with jurisdiction over economic development.

19 (c) The members shall be representative of the geographic regions  
20 of the state, including eastern and central Washington, as well as  
21 represent the ethnic diversity of the state. Private sector members  
22 shall represent existing and emerging industries, small businesses,  
23 women-owned businesses, and minority-owned businesses. Members of the  
24 commission shall serve statewide interests while preserving their  
25 diverse perspectives, and shall be recognized leaders in their fields  
26 with demonstrated experience in economic development or disciplines  
27 related to economic development.

28 (3) Members appointed by the governor shall serve at the pleasure  
29 of the governor for three-year terms. No member shall serve more than  
30 two full consecutive terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same  
31 manner as the original appointments.

32 (4) The commission may establish committees as it desires, and may  
33 invite nonmembers of the commission to serve as committee members.

34 (5) The executive director of the commission shall be appointed by  
35 the governor (~~(with the consent of)~~) based upon recommendations made by  
36 the voting members of the commission. The salary of the executive  
37 director shall be set by the governor. The governor may dismiss the

1 executive director only with the approval of a majority vote of the  
2 commission. The commission, by a majority vote, may dismiss the  
3 executive director with the approval of the governor.

4 (6) The commission may adopt rules for its own governance.

5 (7) Members are eligible to receive reimbursement for travel  
6 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with  
7 RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

8 (8) A majority of members currently appointed constitutes a quorum  
9 for the purpose of conducting business.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.162.020 and 2007 c 232 s 4 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 (1) The Washington state economic development commission shall:

13 ~~((1))~~ (a) Concentrate its major efforts on planning,  
14 coordination, evaluation, policy analysis, and recommending  
15 improvements to the state's economic development system using, but not  
16 limited to, the "Next Washington" plan and the global competitiveness  
17 council recommendations;

18 ~~((2))~~ (b) Develop and maintain on a biennial basis a state  
19 comprehensive plan for economic development, including but not limited  
20 to goals, objectives, and priorities for the state economic development  
21 system; identify the elements local associate development organizations  
22 must include in their countywide economic development plans; and review  
23 the state system for consistency with the state comprehensive plan. In  
24 developing the state comprehensive plan for economic development, the  
25 commission shall use, but may not be limited to: Economic, labor  
26 market, and populations trend reports in office of financial management  
27 forecasts; the annual state economic climate report prepared by the  
28 economic climate council; joint office of financial management and  
29 employment security department labor force, industry employment, and  
30 occupational forecasts; the results of scientifically based outcome  
31 evaluations; the needs of industry associations, industry clusters,  
32 businesses, and employees as evidenced in formal surveys and other  
33 input;

34 ~~((3))~~ (c) Establish and maintain an inventory of the programs of  
35 the state economic development system and related state programs;  
36 perform a biennial assessment of the ongoing and strategic economic  
37 development needs of the state; and assess the extent to which the

1 economic development system and related programs represent a  
2 consistent, coordinated, efficient, and integrated approach to meet  
3 such needs; (~~and~~

4 ~~(4))~~ (d) Produce a biennial report to the governor and the  
5 legislature on progress by the commission in coordinating the state's  
6 economic development system and meeting the other obligations of this  
7 chapter, as well as include recommendations for any statutory changes  
8 necessary to enhance operational efficiencies or improve coordination;

9 (e) Consult, collaborate, and coordinate with other state agencies  
10 and local organizations when developing plans, inventories, and  
11 assessments so as to avoid duplication of effort; and

12 (f) Have the authority to accept gifts, grants, donations,  
13 sponsorships, or contributions from any federal, state, or local  
14 governmental agency or program or any private source and expend the  
15 same for any purpose consistent with the provisions of this chapter.

16 (2) The commission may delegate to the executive director any of  
17 the functions of this section.

18 (3) The commission shall not operate programs.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.162 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 The Washington state economic development commission program fund  
22 is created in the state treasury. All receipts from gifts, grants,  
23 donations, sponsorships, or contributions under RCW 43.162.020 must be  
24 deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only  
25 after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used by the  
26 Washington state economic development commission only for the purposes  
27 related to economic development within the state of Washington.

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