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SENATE BILL 5361

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 Regular Session

By Senators Chase, Kastama, Shin, Nelson, Prentice, and Conway

Read first time 01/21/11. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1            AN ACT Relating to the obligations of associate development  
2 organizations and the department of commerce; and amending RCW  
3 43.330.080.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.330.080 and 2009 c 151 s 10 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            In carrying out its obligations under RCW 43.330.070, the  
8 department ((shall)) must provide training to and contract with  
9 county-designated associate development organizations to increase the  
10 support for and coordination of community and economic development  
11 services in communities or regional areas. The training provided to  
12 the organizations contracted with must include, but need not be limited  
13 to, training in the fundamentals of export assistance and the services  
14 available from private and public export assistance providers in the  
15 state. The organizations contracted with in each community or regional  
16 area shall be broadly representative of community and economic  
17 interests. The organization ((shall)) must be capable of identifying  
18 key economic and community development problems, developing appropriate  
19 solutions, and mobilizing broad support for recommended initiatives.

1 The contracting organization (~~shall~~) must work with and include local  
2 governments, local chambers of commerce, workforce development  
3 councils, port districts, labor groups, institutions of higher  
4 education, community action programs, and other appropriate private,  
5 public, or nonprofit community and economic development groups. The  
6 scope of services delivered under these contracts (~~shall~~) must  
7 include two broad areas of work:

8 (1) Direct assistance, including business planning, to companies  
9 who need support to stay in business, expand, or relocate to Washington  
10 from out of state or other countries. Assistance includes:

11 (a) Working with the appropriate partners, including but not  
12 limited to, local governments, workforce development councils, port  
13 districts, community and technical colleges and higher education  
14 institutions, export assistance providers, the Washington manufacturing  
15 services, the Washington state quality award council, small business  
16 assistance programs, and other federal, state, and local programs to  
17 facilitate the alignment of planning efforts and the seamless delivery  
18 of business support services in the county;

19 (b) Providing information on state and local permitting processes,  
20 tax issues, export assistance, and other essential information for  
21 operating, expanding, or locating a business in Washington;

22 (c) Marketing Washington and local areas as excellent locations to  
23 expand or relocate a business and positioning Washington as a globally  
24 competitive place to grow business, which may include developing and  
25 executing regional plans to attract companies from out of state;

26 (d) Working with businesses on site location and selection  
27 assistance;

28 (e) Providing business retention and expansion services, including  
29 business outreach and monitoring efforts to identify and address  
30 challenges and opportunities faced by businesses; (~~and~~)

31 (f) Participating in economic development system-wide discussions  
32 regarding gaps in business start-up assistance in Washington; and

33 (g) Providing or facilitating the provision of export assistance  
34 through workshops or one-on-one assistance; and

35 (2) Support for regional economic research and regional planning  
36 efforts to implement target industry sector strategies and other  
37 economic development strategies, including cluster-based strategies,

1 that support increased living standards and increase foreign direct  
2 investment throughout Washington. Activities include:

3 (a) Participation in regional planning efforts with workforce  
4 development councils involving coordinated strategies around workforce  
5 development and economic development policies and programs.  
6 Coordinated planning efforts (~~shall~~) must include, but not be limited  
7 to, assistance to industry clusters in the region;

8 (b) Participation between the contracting organization and the  
9 state board for community and technical colleges as created in RCW  
10 28B.50.050, and any community and technical colleges in providing for  
11 the coordination of the job skills training program and the customized  
12 training program within its region;

13 (c) Collecting and reporting data as specified by the contract with  
14 the department for statewide systemic analysis. The department  
15 (~~shall~~) must consult with the Washington state economic development  
16 commission in the establishment of such uniform data as is needed to  
17 conduct a statewide systemic analysis of the state's economic  
18 development programs and expenditures. In cooperation with other  
19 local, regional, and state planning efforts, contracting organizations  
20 may provide insight into the needs of target industry clusters,  
21 business expansion plans, early detection of potential relocations or  
22 layoffs, training needs, and other appropriate economic information;

23 (d) In conjunction with other governmental jurisdictions and  
24 institutions, participate in the development of a countywide economic  
25 development plan, consistent with the state comprehensive plan for  
26 economic development developed by the Washington state economic  
27 development commission.

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