
HOUSE BILL 1123

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Sheldon, Van Luven, Horn, Campbell, Foreman, Mason, Hatfield, Ballasiotes, Kremen, Conway, K. Schmidt, D. Schmidt, Grant, Sheahan, Chopp, Schoesler, Morris, Koster, Thibaudeau, Talcott, Valle, Wolfe, L. Thomas, Casada, Boldt, Sherstad, Huff and Mitchell

Read first time 01/13/95. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to international trade; adding a new chapter to
2 Title 43 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) The expansion of international trade is vital to the overall
6 growth of Washington's economy;

7 (b) On a per capita basis, Washington state is the most
8 international trade dependent state in the nation;

9 (c) The north american free trade agreement (NAFTA) and the general
10 agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) highlight the increased
11 importance of international trade opportunities to the United States
12 and the state of Washington;

13 (d) The passage of NAFTA and GATT will have a major impact on the
14 state's agriculture, aerospace, computer software, and textiles and
15 apparel sectors;

16 (e) The current state efforts to develop relations with foreign
17 countries are insufficient for effective coordination and mobilization
18 of resources necessary to promote economic growth and international
19 trade opportunities;

1 (f) There is a need to strengthen and coordinate the state's
2 activities in promoting and developing its agricultural, manufacturing,
3 and service industries overseas, especially for small and medium-sized
4 businesses, and minority and women-owned business enterprises; and

5 (g) The importance of having a coherent vision for advancing
6 Washington state's interest in the global economy has rarely been so
7 consequential as it is now.

8 (2) The legislature declares that the purpose of the office of the
9 Washington state trade representative is to strengthen and expand the
10 state's activities in marketing its goods and services overseas.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of the Washington state trade
12 representative is created under the office of the governor. The office
13 shall serve as the state's official liaison with foreign governments on
14 trade matters.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The executive and administrative head of
16 the office of the Washington state trade representative shall be the
17 governor's special trade representative. The governor's special trade
18 representative shall be appointed by the governor with consent of the
19 senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The
20 governor's special trade representative shall be paid a salary to be
21 fixed by the governor in accordance with RCW 43.03.040.

22 (2) The governor's special trade representative may hire such
23 personnel as may be necessary for the general administration of the
24 office. To the extent permitted by law, state agencies may temporarily
25 assign staff to the office of the Washington state trade representative
26 to assist in carrying out the office's duties and responsibilities
27 under this chapter. An arrangement to assign staff must have the
28 approval of the staff members to be assigned, the special trade
29 representative, and directors of the agencies involved in the
30 assignment.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The governor's special trade
32 representative shall supervise and administer the activities of the
33 office of the Washington state trade representative and shall advise
34 the governor and legislature with respect to trade matters affecting
35 the state.

1 (2) In addition to other powers and duties granted to the
2 governor's special trade representative, the governor's special trade
3 representative shall have the following powers and duties:

4 (a) To consult with the department of agriculture and the various
5 agricultural commissions, created in Title 15 RCW, on the promotion of
6 Washington agricultural commodities overseas;

7 (b) To consult with the department of community, trade, and
8 economic development on the promotion of Washington goods and services
9 overseas;

10 (c) To work with the Washington state trade advisory council,
11 created in section 5 of this act, on strategies to assist Washington
12 businesses to expand international trade opportunities.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The Washington state trade advisory
14 council is established. The council shall consist of eighteen members
15 as follows:

16 (a) Two members of trade organizations, appointed by the governor;

17 (b) Two representatives of ports, appointed by the governor;

18 (c) Three representatives of businesses active in exporting goods,
19 appointed by the governor;

20 (d) Four representatives from the legislative committee on economic
21 development created in chapter 44.52 RCW;

22 (e) Two members with experience in foreign marketing, appointed by
23 the governor;

24 (f) Two experts in financing export transactions, appointed by the
25 governor;

26 (g) The director of the department of community, trade, and
27 economic development or the director's designee;

28 (h) The director of the department of agriculture or the director's
29 designee; and

30 (i) The governor's special trade representative, who shall serve as
31 chair.

32 (2) Nonlegislative members may receive reimbursement from the
33 governor's office for travel under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.
34 Legislative members may be reimbursed under RCW 41.04.300.

35 (3) The council shall:

36 (a) Advise the governor and the legislature on policies, programs,
37 and activities to enhance the exporting of Washington goods and
38 services to international markets;

1 (b) Review current state export targeting efforts and advise the
2 governor and the legislature regarding markets with potential that
3 currently are not being emphasized;

4 (c) Assist in the coordination of public export programs state-
5 wide;

6 (d) Identify for the governor and the legislature current and long-
7 term international trade issues that need to be addressed by the state
8 in its long-term economic development plan;

9 (e) Recommend methods to increase the awareness of international
10 trade, especially its opportunities and its importance, throughout the
11 state;

12 (f) Study the impact of the Uruguay round of the general agreement
13 on tariffs and trade and the north american free trade agreement on the
14 state's small manufacturing and export firms, focusing on the
15 competitive threats and opportunities presented by the trade agreements
16 to the state's six most significant traded sectors as measured by the
17 number of employees in the sector and the aggregate dollar volume of
18 goods and services traded in the sector. The council shall identify
19 and utilize existing analyses, studies, and data from the federal
20 government, national and state business and labor organizations, and
21 educational and policy institutes.

22 (4) The council may accept gifts, grants, donations, devises, and
23 bequests to facilitate the work of the council.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
26 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
27 effect July 1, 1995.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall
29 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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