
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2758

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Huff, Cooke and Silver)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to the measurement of state fiscal conditions and
2 economic performance; adding a new chapter to Title 82 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The citizens of Washington should enjoy a
6 high quality of life, which requires a healthy state economy. To
7 achieve this goal, the legislature recognizes that the state must be
8 able to compete economically at a national and international level. It
9 is critical to the economic well-being of the citizens of this state
10 that the legislature strive to continually improve the state's economic
11 climate. Therefore, the legislature intends to provide a mechanism
12 whereby the information necessary to achieve this goal is available on
13 a timely and reliable basis.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The economic climate council is hereby
15 created.

16 (2) The council shall select a series of no more than ten
17 benchmarks that characterize the competitive environment of the state.
18 The benchmarks should be indicators of the cost of doing business; the

1 education and skills of the work force; a sound infrastructure; and the
2 quality of life. In selecting the appropriate benchmarks, the council
3 shall use the following criteria:

4 (a) The availability of comparative information for other states
5 and countries;

6 (b) The timeliness with which benchmark information can be
7 obtained; and

8 (c) The accuracy and validity of the benchmarks in measuring the
9 economic climate indicators named in this section.

10 The council shall report to the legislature by September 30, 1996,
11 on the benchmarks selected under this subsection (2).

12 (3) Twice each year the council shall prepare an official state
13 economic climate report on the present status of benchmarks, changes in
14 the benchmarks since the previous report, and the reasons for the
15 changes. The reports shall include current benchmark comparisons with
16 other states and countries, and an analysis of factors related to the
17 benchmarks that may affect the ability of the state to compete
18 economically at the national and international level.

19 (4) The council shall submit reports prepared under this section to
20 the governor and the fiscal committees of the senate and the house of
21 representatives on or before March 31st and September 30th of each
22 year. The first report shall be made by September 30, 1996.

23 (5) All agencies of state government shall provide to the council
24 immediate access to all information relating to economic climate
25 reports.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Until July 1, 1997, the economic and
27 revenue forecast council shall, in addition to its other duties and
28 responsibilities, function as the economic climate council created
29 under section 2 of this act.

30 (2) The staff of the economic and revenue forecast council shall
31 serve as staff to the economic climate council until July 1, 1997.

32 (3) By September 30, 1996, the council shall make recommendations
33 to the legislature regarding: (a) Permanent composition of the
34 economic climate council, including the procedures for appointment of
35 members, length of terms, selection of a chair, and reimbursement for
36 expenses or other compensation; and (b) a permanent staffing structure
37 to support the work of the economic climate council.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The economic climate council shall
2 create an advisory committee to assist the council in selecting
3 benchmarks and developing economic climate reports and benchmarks. The
4 advisory committee shall provide for a process to ensure public
5 participation in the selection of the benchmarks. The advisory
6 committee shall consist of no more than seven members. At least two of
7 the members of the advisory committee shall have experience in and
8 represent business, and at least two of the members shall have
9 experience in and represent labor. All of the members of the advisory
10 committee shall have special expertise and interest in the state's
11 economic climate and competitive strategies. Appointments to the
12 advisory committee shall be recommended by the chair of the council and
13 approved by a two-thirds vote of the council. The chair of the
14 advisory committee shall be selected by the members of the committee.

15 (2) The advisory committee shall meet as determined by the chair of
16 the committee until September 30, 1996, and shall meet at least twice
17 per year thereafter in advance of the economic climate reports due on
18 March 31st and September 30th of each year.

19 (3) Members of the advisory council shall serve without
20 compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance
21 with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 while attending meetings of the
22 advisory committee, sessions of the economic climate council, or on
23 official business authorized by the council.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1, 2, and 4 of this act shall
25 constitute a new chapter in Title 82 RCW.

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