
SENATE BILL 5353

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon, Rasmussen and Kohl

Read first time 01/20/95. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to economic development grants; adding new sections
2 to chapter 43.330 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that state-supported
5 economic development efforts, including work force training, technology
6 transfer, and industrial modernization, can make a significant
7 difference in the health and diversification of the state's economy.
8 There are numerous federal and private economic development grant
9 programs and research projects designed to increase the competitiveness
10 of American firms and local work forces, for which state agencies and
11 local consortiums are eligible to apply. The legislature further
12 finds that state agencies in Washington have not maximized the
13 opportunities available to them to facilitate the receipt of federal
14 and private funds by Washington firms, nor have they maximized the
15 opportunities available to receive federal funds directly to augment
16 state economic development efforts.

17 The legislature declares that it is the state's policy to maximize
18 the use of federal and private funds for economic development purposes
19 and to devote state resources to leverage federal and private dollars

1 to supplement state economic development efforts. In furtherance of
2 this policy, it is the purpose of section 2 of this act to authorize
3 and fund a technical assistance and grant writing program within the
4 department of community, trade, and economic development.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The economic development grants program is created in the
8 department. The program shall be operated by a managing director with
9 the support of at least one grant writer either on contract or on
10 staff. The managing director shall:

11 (1) Regularly review the federal register for opportunities to
12 apply for grants, research projects, and demonstration projects;

13 (2) Stay abreast of grant opportunities with private foundations;

14 (3) Correspond and meet with federal officials, including those in
15 the small business administration, the department of labor, the
16 department of commerce, and the department of health and human
17 services, as well as foundation officials, on the prospects for
18 obtaining federal and private funds for economic development purposes
19 in Washington state;

20 (4) Work with the agency heads and division directors of the
21 departments of community, trade, and economic development, the
22 employment security department, the department of agriculture, the
23 Washington technology center, and other state agencies as appropriate,
24 to apprise them of the opportunities for federal and private grant
25 dollars for economic development projects;

26 (5) Work with business, labor, and community groups to apprise them
27 of the opportunities for federal and private grant dollars for economic
28 development projects via publications, electronic bulletin boards, or
29 toll-free phone lines;

30 (6) Assist state agencies in their grant-seeking efforts for
31 economic development projects. Grant writing for and assistance in
32 grant writing for projects sponsored or cosponsored by state agencies
33 shall be the highest priority of the program's work;

34 (7) Assist local business, labor, and community consortiums in
35 their grant-seeking efforts for economic development projects;

36 (8) Facilitate coordination and linkages between agencies and
37 between local consortiums and state agencies that will increase the
38 likelihood of success in grant seeking; and

1 (9) Garner the political support necessary from federal and state
2 elected and appointed officials for success in grant seeking.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The department shall ensure that the business assistance center,
6 the small business development centers, and the associate development
7 organizations that operate under the authority of the department notify
8 their constituencies and clients of the availability of the technical
9 assistance services of the economic development grants program created
10 in section 2 of this act.

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