
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5646

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Fraser, Kohl, Fairley, Prince, Wood, Bauer, Hale, Deccio, Johnson, Franklin and Winsley)

Read first time 02/23/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational, cultural, and business exchange
2 programs; adding a new section to chapter 43.31 RCW; adding new
3 sections to chapter 43.07 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance of
7 educational, cultural, and business exchange programs in developing
8 mutually beneficial relationships between Washington state and other
9 countries. In order to promote trade and enhance international,
10 educational opportunities the legislature strongly encourages cities,
11 counties, ports, and others to establish sister school relationships
12 within their established sister relationships.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.31 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 The department of community, trade, and economic development in
16 consultation with the office of international relations and protocol
17 shall provide information and assist local governments in maintaining
18 their established sister relationships in other countries. The

1 department shall encourage and promote the use of its services for this
2 purpose.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The international education and exchange
4 council is created in the secretary of state's office. The council is
5 established as a public-private partnership. The purpose of the
6 council is to assist the governor, the legislature, elected state
7 officials, state and local agencies, educational institutions,
8 businesses, and organizations that foster international education and
9 cultural exchanges as these organizations and agencies attempt to
10 implement and further develop Washington's efforts to work with
11 targeted training partners and with educational and trade organizations
12 from outside the United States.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The initial members of the council may
14 include, but need not be limited to:

15 (a) Representatives from the department of community, trade, and
16 economic development; the department of agriculture; the office of the
17 secretary of state; and the office of protocol;

18 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each
19 caucus, selected by the speaker of the house of representatives;

20 (c) Two members of the senate, one from each caucus, selected by
21 the president of the senate;

22 (d) Representatives of the common schools and public and private
23 institutions of higher education;

24 (e) Representatives of the businesses community who are working in
25 state international trade efforts;

26 (f) Representatives of organizations dedicated to international
27 trade and cultural exchanges; and

28 (g) Interested members of the public selected by the secretary of
29 state.

30 (2) The initial nonlegislative members shall be selected by the
31 governor and the secretary of state.

32 (3) When the initial board members leave the council, any
33 replacements shall be selected by members of the council.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The duties of the council may include, but
35 need not be limited to:

1 (1) Advising the governor, elected state officials, the
2 legislature, and others as appropriate on the needs of Washington state
3 for international education and cultural exchange opportunities;

4 (2) Assisting efforts by state and local governments, business,
5 education, and others to work with businesses, governmental units,
6 educational institutions, and organizations outside the United States,
7 with an emphasis on organizations, businesses, agencies, and
8 educational institutions in the countries that comprise Washington's
9 targeted trading partners.

10 (3) Promoting efforts to enhance cultural and education exchange
11 opportunities;

12 (4) Maintaining a data base on cultural exchange opportunities and
13 state residents who have participated in international exchanges;

14 (5) Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the
15 Washington task force on international education and cultural
16 exchanges; and

17 (6) Undertaking other duties as assigned.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The council may establish a private,
19 nonprofit corporation created specifically to foster international
20 education and cultural exchanges. Any such private, nonprofit
21 corporation shall qualify as a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation under
22 section 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The secretary of state and the council may
24 accept gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises, of real or
25 personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise, and sell, lease,
26 exchange, invest, or expend these donations or the proceeds, rents,
27 profits, and income from the donations except as limited by the donor's
28 terms. The secretary of state shall adopt rules to govern and protect
29 the receipt and expenditure of the proceeds.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The legislature believes that Washington
31 state has hundreds of residents with expertise that they are willing to
32 share with developing international trade partners on a volunteer
33 basis. The legislature believes that by sharing their knowledge and
34 skills, these residents could enrich the lives of all Washingtonians by
35 promoting friendship and understanding between cultures, providing

1 trained manpower improving the lives of their friends overseas, and
2 creating a positive international image of Washington state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The secretary of state may develop a pilot
4 project to furnish developing international trading partners with
5 technical assistance, training, and expertise through the voluntary
6 services provided by Washington residents. The secretary of state
7 shall establish appropriate procedures to carry out the project. The
8 secretary of state may appoint a director of the project who serves at
9 the pleasure of the secretary of state, and appropriate staff as
10 funding allows, however, the secretary of state shall be responsible
11 for the continuous supervision and general direction of the project.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The secretary of state may enroll in
13 the project residents of Washington state. These residents, referred
14 to in this section and section 6 of this act as volunteers, shall be
15 selected based on their skills, expertise, and language proficiency,
16 the technical, educational, or training needs of the participating
17 country, and other considerations deemed relevant by the secretary of
18 state to furthering the goals and purposes of the project. The
19 secretary of state shall consider for participation in the program
20 retired persons, students, and persons whose skills and backgrounds
21 will contribute to the success of the program. In carrying out this
22 subsection, there shall be no discrimination against any person based
23 on race, sex, creed, or color.

24 (2) Volunteers shall not be deemed officers or employees of the
25 state of Washington or otherwise in the service or employment of, or
26 holding office under, the state of Washington.

27 (3) The terms and conditions of the enrollment, training,
28 compensation, hours of work, benefits, leave, termination, and all
29 other conditions of service of volunteers shall be exclusively those
30 set forth by the terms of the project. Service as a volunteer may be
31 terminated at any time at the pleasure of the secretary of state.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) If funding is available, volunteers may
33 be provided with living, travel, and leave allowances, and such
34 housing, transportation, supplies, and equipment as the secretary of
35 state may deem necessary for their maintenance and to ensure their

1 health and their capacity to serve effectively. Transportation may be
2 provided to volunteers for travel to and from the country of service.

3 (2) The secretary of state may establish policies regarding
4 arrangements for spouses and children of volunteers to accompany the
5 volunteers abroad.

6 (3) The secretary of state shall indemnify the state for claims
7 relating to the project.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Funding for the volunteer activities shall
9 come entirely from federal funds, private support funds, grant money
10 available to implement technical assistance programs overseas, and such
11 other funds as the secretary of state may receive from nonstate
12 sources.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 43.07 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The legislature finds that knowledge of international exchange
16 students who have studied in Washington state institutions of higher
17 education, especially those from key trading partner countries, and
18 knowledge of Washington state students, interns, and citizens working
19 and studying abroad, is critical to the ability of Washington
20 businesses and citizens to establish contacts and networks in the
21 competitive world market.

22 (2) The secretary of state shall develop and maintain a data base,
23 to be known as the international contact data base, listing (a)
24 Washington students, interns, and citizens working and studying
25 overseas; (b) international students who have studied at Washington
26 educational institutions; and (c) exchange opportunities for Washington
27 residents wishing to participate in education, internships, or
28 technical assistance programs in the areas of agriculture,
29 hydroelectric power, aerospace, computers and technology, academics,
30 medicine, and communications. The data base shall be designed to be
31 used as a resource for Washington citizens, businesses, and other
32 entities seeking contacts in international trade markets overseas.

33 (3) The department of community, trade, and economic development
34 and the office of protocol shall assist the secretary of state in
35 designing and developing the data base and in obtaining data for
36 inclusion in the data base. Four-year educational institutions and
37 their alumni associations are encouraged to maintain data concerning

1 students studying or working abroad, international students attending
2 their institutions, and exchange opportunities available to their
3 students and other citizens, and to make such data freely available to
4 the secretary of state for inclusion in the data base.

5 (4) The information contained in the data base shall be made
6 available on request for inspection or copying for free or at cost.
7 The secretary of state shall not distinguish among persons requesting
8 information from the data base, though the secretary of state may
9 request information from requesters for purposes of monitoring trade
10 contacts and evaluating the uses and effectiveness of the data base.

11 (5) Any person listed in the data base may request in writing that
12 his or her name, address, telephone number, or other identifying
13 information be omitted from the data base. Nothing in this section
14 prohibits the secretary of state from refusing to disclose information
15 exempt from disclosure under RCW 42.17.310.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** The department of community, trade, and
17 economic development, in consultation with the office of protocol, the
18 office of the secretary of state, the department of agriculture, and
19 the employment security department shall identify up to fifteen
20 countries that are of strategic importance to the development of
21 Washington's international trade relations.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** Sections 3 through 7 of this act are each
23 added to chapter 43.07 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** Sections 8 through 12 and 14 of this act
25 shall expire December 31, 1999.

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