
SENATE BILL 6572

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Schow, T. Sheldon, Sellar, Snyder, Horn, Franklin, Heavey, Jacobsen, Newhouse, Winsley, Anderson and Hale

Read first time 01/21/98. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington economic development strategy
2 council; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and providing an
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Economic development programs, including
6 work force training, industrial modernization, and export assistance,
7 are increasingly important to the state's economic well-being and state
8 efforts to encourage employment growth and increase state revenues.
9 Economic trends are rapidly changing and markets have become
10 increasingly competitive as states and countries seek to improve and
11 safeguard their own economic well-being. The purpose of the Washington
12 economic development strategy council is to provide responsive and
13 consistent involvement by the executive branch, the legislature, and
14 the private sector in creating and implementing economic development
15 strategies to maintain a healthy state economy and provide employment
16 opportunities to Washington residents.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created the Washington economic
18 development strategy council, which shall consist of the governor,

1 three senators and three members of the house of representatives, and
2 five private sector members appointed by the governor. The president
3 of the senate shall appoint the senate members of the council, and the
4 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the house members
5 of the council. Not more than two members from each house may be from
6 the same political party. Vacancies occurring may be filled by the
7 appointing authority. The council is chaired by the governor and has
8 two vice-chairs, one selected by the governor from the private sector
9 and one selected by the legislative members from among themselves.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The council shall by majority vote establish
11 committees, and prescribe rules of procedure for itself and its
12 committees consistent with this chapter. Members of committees are not
13 required to be members of the council. The committees of the council
14 may include the governor's small business improvement council and the
15 economic forecast council.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The council and its committees are
17 authorized to study and review economic development issues, including
18 work force training, industrial modernization, international trade
19 assistance, tourism, private investment, and entrepreneurial
20 development, and to develop a comprehensive and consistent economic
21 development strategy. The council's work includes:

22 (1) Identifying and prioritizing the most significant issues
23 regarding economic development within the state. In carrying out this
24 responsibility the council shall (a) determine the economic impact of
25 various business or industrial sectors upon the state's economy; (b)
26 evaluate existing state policies, laws, and programs which promote or
27 affect economic development; (c) review the final 1988 report of the
28 former Washington state economic development board; (d) review the
29 effectiveness of economic development policies and programs of other
30 states and nations; and (e) monitor economic trends affecting the
31 state's economy;

32 (2) Performing detailed analyses of each significant issue
33 identified, providing a balance sheet of the state's strengths,
34 weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges;

35 (3) Identifying goals and objectives consistent with the council's
36 analysis of significant economic development issues;

1 (4) Developing strategic plans to carry out the council's economic
2 development goals and objectives and making recommendations for
3 legislative and administrative actions. In carrying out this
4 responsibility, the council shall develop recommendations to the
5 governor and the legislature on steps necessary to implement the
6 council's strategies;

7 (5) Monitoring the state's progress in carrying out its economic
8 development strategies.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Staff resources of the department of
10 community, trade, and economic development, the governor's office, the
11 senate, and the house of representatives shall provide the council with
12 necessary staff support. The council may solicit staff resources,
13 including loaned executives, from the private sector.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Members of the council shall serve without
15 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred
16 while attending meetings of the council or any of its committees, and
17 while going to and coming from council or committee meetings as
18 provided in RCW 44.04.120 for members of the legislature or by the
19 office of the governor under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 for the
20 governor's appointees.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The council shall cooperate, act, and
22 function with legislative committees, executive agencies, councils or
23 committees of other states similar to this committee, and other
24 interstate research or policy organizations.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its
26 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
27 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
28 persons or circumstances is not affected.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act constitute
30 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act takes effect July 1, 1998.

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