
HOUSE BILL 2982

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Veloria, Van Luven, Eickmeyer, Dunn, Ruderman and Kenney; by request of Lieutenant Governor

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to the development of a state-wide strategic plan
2 for economic development; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that establishing
6 a clear state-wide strategy for successful economic development will
7 best prepare the state of Washington to respond to the challenges and
8 take advantage of future economic cycles. The legislature further
9 finds that without a state-wide economic development plan the state's
10 budget and election cycles make it difficult for government to adhere
11 to consistent, long-term economic development priorities that are
12 essential to successful, enhanced economic development. The
13 legislature further finds that the purpose of economic development is
14 to increase the standard of living and enhance the quality of life of
15 the citizens of this state.

16 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that a strategic state-wide
17 economic development plan be created that reflects the following goals
18 and objectives:

1 (a) To create and maintain jobs and income that would not otherwise
2 be created or maintained, and to increase wealth rather than to
3 redistribute it;

4 (b) To add value to private sector economic activity; and

5 (c) To assist businesses in developing their business strategies,
6 increasing the skills of their workers and managers, applying advanced
7 technologies, developing infrastructure, accessing capital, and
8 enhancing social capital.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** For the purposes of this chapter
10 "department" means the department of community, trade, and economic
11 development, or its successor agency or agencies. "The plan" or "state
12 plan" means a state-wide economic development plan, as developed under
13 sections 3 and 4 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The legislative committee on economic
15 development shall take the lead responsibility for creating a
16 state-wide strategic plan for economic development in conjunction with
17 the department, and an advisory group of business, labor, and other
18 interests.

19 (2) In preparing the state plan, the legislative committee on
20 economic development and the department shall recognize:

21 (a) Regional economic, political, and cultural differences, and
22 acknowledge the special challenges facing urban and rural communities;
23 and

24 (b) Special contributions of, and challenges facing, women and
25 minority-owned businesses.

26 (3) The plan should set priorities and concentrate resources on
27 those priorities.

28 (4) The plan should include specific implementation steps and
29 establish a process for institutionalizing economic development
30 planning.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The legislative committee on economic
32 development and the department shall develop and include the following
33 elements in the plan:

34 (1) New strategies that seek to improve the overall competitiveness
35 of groups of similar businesses, usually termed clusters, and entire
36 industries or sectors rather than traditional strategies that focus on

1 individualized assistance. These strategies should foster interfirm
2 cooperation and learning, technology adaptation, and work-based
3 learning to improve work force skills. Under these strategies the
4 state acts as a broker of available private and public development
5 resources, or contracts for such broker services;

6 (2) Direction to the department to develop programs consistent with
7 the state plan, and that are characterized by outcome-based performance
8 management systems and decentralized decision making;

9 (3) Direction to the department to assist local governments and
10 other interested parties in the creation of regional economic
11 development plans consistent with the state plan; and

12 (4) Direction to the department to develop a professional research
13 capacity to keep the state's trade assistance operation regularly
14 appraised of opportunities and updated on performance.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The legislature recognizes the urgent need
16 for having a plan in place as soon as is reasonably possible. The
17 legislative committee on economic development and the department are
18 directed to immediately develop a work plan and take other steps
19 necessary to implement this act.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
21 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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