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HOUSE BILL 2075

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Mulliken and Veloria

Read first time 02/14/2001. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the office of the Washington state trade  
2 representative; amending RCW 43.332.005 and 43.332.010; and adding a  
3 new section to chapter 43.332 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.332.005 and 1995 c 350 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that:

8 (a) The expansion of international trade is vital to the overall  
9 growth of Washington's economy;

10 (b) On a per capita basis, Washington state is the most  
11 international trade dependent state in the nation;

12 (c) The North American free trade agreement (NAFTA) and the general  
13 agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) highlight the increased  
14 importance of international trade opportunities to the United States  
15 and the state of Washington;

16 (d) The passage of NAFTA and GATT will have a major impact on the  
17 state's agriculture, aerospace, computer software, and textiles and  
18 apparel sectors;

1 (e) There is a need to strengthen and coordinate the state's  
2 activities in promoting and developing its agricultural, manufacturing,  
3 and service industries overseas, especially for small and medium-sized  
4 businesses, and minority and women-owned business enterprises; and

5 (f) The importance of having a coherent vision for advancing  
6 Washington state's interest in the global economy has rarely been so  
7 consequential as it is now.

8 (2) The legislature declares that the purpose of the office of the  
9 Washington state trade representative is to:

10 (a) Strengthen and expand the state's activities in marketing its  
11 goods and services overseas; and

12 (b) Review and analyze proposed international trade agreements to  
13 assess their impact on goods and services produced by Washington  
14 businesses.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.332.010 and 1995 c 350 s 2 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 (1) The office of the Washington state trade representative is  
18 created ~~((under))~~ in the office of the governor. The office shall  
19 serve as the state's official liaison with foreign governments on trade  
20 matters.

21 ~~((The office of the Washington state trade representative may  
22 accept or request grants or gifts from citizens and other private  
23 sources to be used to defray the costs of appropriate hosting of  
24 foreign dignitaries, including appropriate gift giving and reciprocal  
25 gift giving, or other activities of the office. The office shall open  
26 and maintain a bank account into which it shall deposit all money  
27 received under this section. Such money and the interest accruing  
28 thereon shall not constitute public funds, shall be kept segregated and  
29 apart from funds of the state, and shall not be subject to  
30 appropriation or allotment by the state or subject to chapter 43.88  
31 RCW.))~~ (2) The office shall:

32 (a) Review and analyze proposed and enacted international trade  
33 agreements and provide an assessment of the impact of the proposed or  
34 enacted agreement on Washington's businesses and firms;

35 (b) Provide input to the office of the United States trade  
36 representative in the development of international trade, commodity,  
37 and direct investment policies that reflect the concerns of the state  
38 of Washington;

1       (c) Work with the international trade division of the department of  
2 community, trade, and economic development and the international  
3 marketing program of the Washington state department of agriculture to  
4 develop a statewide strategy designed to increase the export of  
5 Washington goods and services, particularly goods and services from  
6 small and medium-sized businesses; and

7       (d) Conduct other activities the governor deems necessary to  
8 promote international trade and foreign investment within the state.

9       (3) The office shall prepare and submit an annual report on its  
10 activities under subsection (2) of this section to the governor and  
11 appropriate committees of the legislature.

12       NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.332 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14       The office of the Washington state trade representative may accept  
15 or request grants or gifts from citizens and other private sources to  
16 be used to defray the costs of appropriate hosting of foreign  
17 dignitaries, including appropriate gift-giving and reciprocal gift-  
18 giving, or other activities of the office. The office shall open and  
19 maintain a bank account into which it shall deposit all money received  
20 under this section. Such money and the interest accruing thereon shall  
21 not constitute public funds, shall be kept segregated and apart from  
22 funds of the state, and shall not be subject to appropriation or  
23 allotment by the state or subject to chapter 43.88 RCW.

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