

FINAL BILL REPORT

E2SHB 2227

PARTIAL VETO C 536 L 09 Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Enacting the evergreen jobs act.

Sponsors: House Committee on Education Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Probst, Orwall, Santos, Nelson, Sullivan, Lias, Williams, Carlyle, Maxwell, Conway, Morrell, White, Goodman, Jacks, Kenney and Seaquist).

House Committee on Community & Economic Development & Trade
House Committee on Education Appropriations
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation

Background:

The goal of the Green Economy Jobs Growth Initiative (Green Jobs Initiative) enacted in 2008 was to increase the number of clean energy jobs in the state to 25,000 by 2020. The Green Jobs Initiative required a number of actions by agencies including the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (DCTED), the Employment Security Department (ESD), the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTB), the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the Washington State University Small Business Development Center, the University of Washington Business and Economic Development Center, and the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB).

A Green Industries Job Training Account (Account) was created in the State Treasury. Expenditures from the Account may be used only for competitive grants: (1) to train workers for high-wage occupations in high-demand industries related to the green economy; and (2) for educational purposes related to the green economy. The WTB must create and pilot green industry skill panels in order to distribute grants for training workers. The SBCTC may distribute grants for educational purposes when other public or private funds are insufficient or unavailable, including: curriculum development; transitional job strategies for dislocated workers in declining industries; workforce education; and adult basic and remedial education.

During the 2008 interim the DCTED convened a Green Economy Jobs Initiative Advisory Team with representatives from state government, education, labor, business, environmental, and technology stakeholder groups. In February 2009, the DCTED provided the Legislature

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with a draft report on their work, "Washington State's Green Economy-A Strategic Framework."

Summary:

Findings and Intent.

The Legislature finds that federal and state policies include new investments in green industry research and development, green energy production incentives, green energy installation, and energy efficiency retrofits. The anticipated increase in demand for green energy will create job opportunities for Washington residents; however, the state and residents may fail to take full advantage of these opportunities if there is a shortage of skilled workers. The Legislature intends that the state create a highly skilled green jobs work force through targeted allocation of existing education and training funds as well as federal appropriations.

Evergreen Jobs Initiative Goals.

The Washington state Evergreen Jobs Initiative is established to: (1) create 15,000 new green economy jobs by 2020; (2) target 30 percent of these jobs to veterans, National Guard members, and low-income and disadvantaged populations; (3) coordinate state agencies to secure and deploy federal funds in a focused, effective way; (4) prepare the workforce to take full advantage of green economy job opportunities; (5) attract private sector investment for job creation and expansion; (6) make the state a net exporter of green industry products and services; (7) empower green job recruitment and training by local workforce development councils (WDCs) and associate development organizations (ADOs); (8) capitalize upon existing partnership agreements; and (9) operate according to the 14 guiding principles in the "Green Economy Strategic Framework."

Evergreen Jobs Leadership Team and Its Responsibilities.

The DCTED and the WTB must create the Evergreen Jobs Leadership Team (Leadership Team). The Leadership Team will be chaired by the person designated by the Governor as the single point of accountability for energy and climate change initiatives within state agencies. The Leadership Team will include the WTB, the Economic Development Commission (Commission), the SBCTC, the ESD, the Apprenticeship Training Council, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), labor, business, at least one representative of a WDC, and other agency representatives as necessary. The Leadership Team's responsibilities are to:

- accelerate and coordinate efforts to identify and secure funding, with a particular emphasis on funds available from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act;
- coordinate efforts to ensure federal training and education funds are captured and deployed to support green economy projects at the state and local levels in a time-efficient, user-friendly manner;
- identify emerging technologies and innovations likely to contribute to green economy advancements, including innovation partnership zone activities;
- emphasize, through support and outreach, projects that: have a strong and lasting environmental and economic impact; lead to a domestically or internationally exportable good or service; create training programs leading to a credential,

- certificate or degree in a green economy field; strengthen the state's competitiveness in a particular green economy sector or cluster; create employment opportunities for veterans, National Guard members, and low-income and disadvantaged populations; comply with prevailing wage provisions; and ensure at least 15 percent of labor hours are performed by apprentices;
- identify and implement strategies to allocate existing and new funding streams to WDCs and ADOs to increase their effectiveness, efficiency, and capacity to respond rapidly and comprehensively to green job attraction opportunities;
 - identify strategies to allocate existing and new funding streams for green economy workforce training programs and education that lead to a credential, certificate or degree in a green economy field;
 - identify skills and qualifications required to perform energy audits and efficiency services, and must direct education and training resources provided in the appropriations act to establish workforce training and apprenticeship programs to meet the demand for such work;
 - develop a logo or sign to indicate funding of projects by the Evergreen Jobs Act;
 - develop targeting criteria consistent with the Commission's economic development strategy and other goals in this act;
 - make and support outreach efforts to Washington residents, particularly target populations, to increase awareness of educational and employment opportunities;
 - identify statewide performance metrics for projects receiving agency assistance; and
 - provide semi-annual performance reports to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees.

Agency-specific Responsibilities.

The Apprenticeship Council must evaluate the potential of existing programs to produce skilled workers for energy audits and energy efficiency services and deliver its findings to the DCTED, the Leadership Team, and appropriate legislative committees by January 18, 2010.

The SBCTC must work with the Leadership Team, Apprenticeship and Training Council, and SPI to jointly develop, by June 30, 2010, curricula and training programs to develop skills and qualifications for energy audits and efficiency services. The SBCTC must target a portion of any federal stimulus funding to ensure commensurate capacity for high-employer demand programs of study developed. The SBCTC must provide an interim report by December 1, 2011, and a final report by December 1, 2013 on the effectiveness of the curricula.

The Employment Security Department, in consultation with the DCTED, the WTB, and the Leadership Team must biennially conduct and update green economy-related labor market research; propose which industries will be considered high-demand green industries; and define which family-sustaining wage and benefits ranges within green economy industries will be considered middle- or high-wage occupations and career pathways.

The SBCTC, the WTB, and the Apprenticeship Council may give priority to work force training programs that lead to a credential, a certificate, a degree, or an apprenticeship program in green economy jobs. "Prioritization" includes, but is not limited to:

- the use of high employer-demand funding for work force training programs in green economy jobs, defined as primary industries including clean energy, green building, green transportation, the forestry industry, and environmental protection;
- increased outreach in partnership with local work force development councils to public utilities, education, labor, government, and private industry to develop tailored, green job training programs; and,
- increased outreach in partnership with local work force development councils to target populations, defined as: veterans, National Guard members, and low-income and disadvantaged populations.

Evergreen Jobs Training Account.

The Evergreen Jobs Account (Account) is created in the State Treasury. Funds deposited in the Account may include public or private gifts, grants, or endowments. Moneys in the Account must be used to supplement the state Opportunity Grant Program (Program), but may not be used for student assistance support services available through the Program. The SBCTC, in consultation with the DCTED and the Leadership Team, may authorize expenditures from the Account. The allowable uses of grant funds distributed on a competitive basis by the SBCTC from the Account include: curriculum development; transitional jobs strategies for dislocated workers in declining industries; workforce education to target populations; adult basic and remedial education linked to occupation skills training; and coordinated outreach by higher education institutions and the WDCs.

Other.

The Comprehensive Green Economy Jobs Growth Initiative and the Green Industries Jobs Training Account are repealed.

Nothing in this act: requires any agency to get approval from another before allocating funding to the local level; precludes nonstate agencies from applying for federal funding directly; or allows additional reporting or approval processes or imposition of unfunded mandates on local organizations.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	76	19	
Senate	34	14	(Senate amended)
House	76	22	(House concurred)

Effective: July 26, 2009

Partial Veto Summary: The Governor vetoed the eight sections that: provided the findings and intent of the Evergreen Jobs Act; directed creation of the Evergreen Jobs Leadership Team; defined a number of terms; required development of an Evergreen Jobs logo or sign; required Leadership Team actions related to education and training; precluded certain agency actions; repealed sections and added sections to the law.