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SENATE BILL 5934

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Warnick, and Chase

Read first time 02/11/15. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a joint legislative task force on  
2 fostering innovation and retaining and creating jobs in Washington;  
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the important  
6 role of research and innovation to growing a vibrant economy in  
7 Washington. Washington enjoys many benefits as a region that make it  
8 a desirable location including a skilled workforce, world class  
9 research institutions, strong and vibrant economic sectors, and a  
10 diverse international trade sector. However, Washington competes in a  
11 global economy, and many states and regions offer a variety of  
12 economic incentives, infrastructure investments, workforce training,  
13 and other tools to attract new business development to their region.  
14 Through the establishment of a joint legislative task force, the  
15 legislature intends to identify best practices for fostering an  
16 investment ecosystem that retains current jobs and attracts new  
17 business development in targeted high growth, high wage industries.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A legislative task force on fostering  
19 innovation and retaining and creating jobs in Washington is  
20 established, with eleven members appointed as follows:

- 1 (a) The president of the senate must appoint one member from each  
2 of the two largest caucuses of the senate;
- 3 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives must appoint one  
4 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
5 representatives;
- 6 (c) The director of the department of commerce or the director's  
7 designee;
- 8 (d) A representative from higher education appointed by the  
9 council of presidents;
- 10 (e) The executive director of the state board for community and  
11 technical colleges or the executive director's designee;
- 12 (f) The executive director of the Washington association of  
13 economic development associations or the executive director's  
14 designee;
- 15 (g) A representative from the business community appointed by the  
16 association of Washington business;
- 17 (h) The director of the Pacific Northwest national laboratory or  
18 the director's designee; and
- 19 (i) A representative from a targeted high growth sector appointed  
20 by the director of the department of commerce.
- 21 (2) The task force must:
- 22 (a) Choose a chair or cochairs from among its legislative  
23 membership at its initial meeting. The initial meeting must be called  
24 by agreement of a majority of the appointed members;
- 25 (b) Review current efforts to promote job retention and creation  
26 in Washington and compare those programs to other states and regions  
27 to find best practices for fostering an ecosystem of innovation in  
28 Washington to retain and attract new investments in high growth, high  
29 skill, and high demand industries. The review must also include  
30 identifying current and potential federal funding opportunities  
31 related to research and key high growth sectors, and how to  
32 strategically leverage those funds in Washington;
- 33 (c) Provide any recommendations identified by the task force that  
34 involve statutory changes, funding recommendations, or administrative  
35 action to the legislature. If statutory changes are recommended, the  
36 task force must provide the recommendations in the form of draft  
37 legislation. Task force recommendations require the approval of a  
38 majority of the appointed members;
- 39 (d) Ensure that the task force provides ample opportunity for  
40 input from: Interested stakeholders including industry leaders in

1 targeted sectors; statewide organizations representing business and  
2 labor interests, local governments, and economic development  
3 organizations; and members of the public.

4 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate  
5 committee services and the office of program research. The department  
6 of commerce, and other relevant state agencies identified by the task  
7 force during the course of its work, must cooperate with the task  
8 force and provide information and assistance at the request of the  
9 task force.

10 (4) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for  
11 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

12 (5) Task force expenditures are subject to approval by the senate  
13 facilities and operations committee and the house of representatives  
14 executive rules committee, or their successor committees.

15 (6) The task force must provide recommendations, if any, to the  
16 appropriate legislative committees, as described under subsection  
17 (2)(c) of this section and consistent with RCW 43.01.036 by November  
18 1, 2015.

19 (7) This section expires June 30, 2016.

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