
SENATE BILL 5646

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Fraser, Kohl, Fairley, Prince, Wood, Bauer, Hale, Deccio, Johnson, Franklin and Winsley

Read first time 01/30/95. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to international trade and cultural exchanges;
2 adding new sections to chapter 43.07 RCW; creating new sections; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that knowledge of
6 international exchange students who have studied in Washington state
7 institutions of higher education, especially those from key trading
8 partner countries, and knowledge of Washington state students, interns,
9 and citizens working and studying abroad, is critical to the ability of
10 Washington businesses and citizens to establish contacts and networks
11 in the competitive world market.

12 (2) The legislature believes that Washington state has hundreds of
13 citizens with expertise that they are willing to share with developing
14 international trade partners on a volunteer basis. The legislature
15 believes that by sharing their knowledge and skills, these citizens
16 could enrich the lives of all Washingtonians by promoting friendship
17 and understanding between cultures, providing trained manpower
18 improving the lives of their friends overseas, and creating a positive
19 international image of Washington state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The international education and exchange
2 council is created in the secretary of state's office. The council is
3 established as a public-private partnership. The purpose of the
4 council is to assist the governor, the legislature, elected state
5 officials, state and local agencies, educational institutions,
6 businesses, and organizations that foster international education and
7 cultural exchanges as these organizations and agencies attempt to
8 implement and further develop Washington's efforts to work with
9 targeted training partners and with educational and trade organizations
10 from outside the United States.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The initial members of the council may
12 include, but need not be limited to:

13 (a) Representatives from the department of community, trade, and
14 economic development; the department of agriculture; the office of the
15 secretary of state; and the office of protocol;

16 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each
17 caucus, selected by the speaker of the house of representatives;

18 (c) Two members of the senate, one from each caucus, selected by
19 the president of the senate;

20 (d) Representatives of the common schools and public and private
21 institutions of higher education;

22 (e) Representatives of the businesses community who are working in
23 state international trade efforts;

24 (f) Representatives of organizations dedicated to international
25 trade and cultural exchanges; and

26 (g) Interested members of the public selected by the secretary of
27 state.

28 (2) The initial nonlegislative members shall be selected by the
29 governor and the secretary of state.

30 (3) When the initial board members leave the council, any
31 replacements shall be selected by members of the council.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The duties of the council may include, but
33 need not be limited to:

34 (1) Advising the governor, elected state officials, the
35 legislature, and others as appropriate on the needs of Washington state
36 for international education and cultural exchange opportunities;

1 (2) Assisting efforts by state and local governments, business,
2 education, and others to work with businesses, governmental units,
3 educational institutions, and organizations outside the United States,
4 with an emphasis on organizations, businesses, agencies, and
5 educational institutions in the countries that comprise Washington's
6 targeted trading partners.

7 (3) Promoting efforts to enhance cultural and education exchange
8 opportunities;

9 (4) Maintaining a data base on cultural exchange opportunities and
10 state residents who have participated in international exchanges;

11 (5) Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the
12 Washington task force on international education and cultural
13 exchanges; and

14 (6) Undertaking other duties as assigned.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The council shall be a private, nonprofit
16 corporation created specifically to foster international education and
17 cultural exchanges. Any such private, nonprofit corporation shall
18 qualify as a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation under section 501(c) of
19 the federal internal revenue code.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The council may accept gifts, grants,
21 conveyances, bequests, and devises, of real or personal property, or
22 both, in trust or otherwise, and sell, lease, exchange, invest, or
23 expend these donations or the proceeds, rents, profits, and income from
24 the donations except as limited by the donor's terms. The council
25 shall adopt rules to govern and protect the receipt and expenditure of
26 the proceeds.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The secretary of state shall develop and
28 maintain a data base, to be known as the international contact data
29 base, listing (a) Washington students, interns, and citizens working
30 and studying overseas; (b) international students who have studied at
31 Washington educational institutions; and (c) exchange opportunities for
32 Washington residents wishing to participate in education, internships,
33 or technical assistance programs in the areas of agriculture,
34 hydroelectric power, aerospace, computers and technology, academics,
35 medicine, and communications. The data base shall be designed to be

1 used as a resource for Washington citizens, businesses, and other
2 entities seeking contacts in international trade markets overseas.

3 (2) The department of community, trade, and economic development
4 and the office of protocol shall assist the secretary of state in
5 designing and developing the data base and in obtaining data for
6 inclusion in the data base. Four-year educational institutions and
7 their alumni associations are encouraged to maintain data concerning
8 students studying or working abroad, international students attending
9 their institutions, and exchange opportunities available to their
10 students and other citizens, and to make such data freely available to
11 the secretary of state for inclusion in the data base.

12 (3) The information contained in the data base shall be made
13 available on request for inspection or copying for free or at cost.
14 The secretary of state shall not distinguish among persons requesting
15 information from the data base, though the secretary of state may
16 request information from requesters for purposes of monitoring trade
17 contacts and evaluating the uses and effectiveness of the data base.

18 (4) Any person listed in the data base may request in writing that
19 his or her name, address, telephone number, or other identifying
20 information be omitted from the data base. Nothing in this section
21 prohibits the secretary of state from refusing to disclose information
22 exempt from disclosure under RCW 42.17.310.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The secretary of state may develop a pilot
24 project to furnish developing international trading partners with
25 technical assistance, training, and expertise through the voluntary
26 services provided by Washington residents. The secretary of state
27 shall establish appropriate procedures to carry out the project. The
28 secretary of state may appoint a director of the project who serves at
29 the pleasure of the secretary of state, and appropriate staff as
30 funding allows, however, the secretary of state shall be responsible
31 for the continuous supervision and general direction of the project.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) The secretary of state may enroll in the
33 project qualified citizens of the United States who are legal residents
34 of Washington. These citizens, referred to in this section and section
35 10 of this act as volunteers, shall be selected based on their skills,
36 expertise, and language proficiency, the technical, educational, or
37 training needs of the participating country, and other considerations

1 deemed relevant by the secretary of state to furthering the goals and
2 purposes of the project. The secretary of state shall consider for
3 participation in the program retired citizens, students, and citizens
4 whose skills and backgrounds will contribute to the success of the
5 program. In carrying out this subsection, there shall be no
6 discrimination against any person based on race, sex, creed, or color.

7 (2) Volunteers shall not be deemed officers or employees of the
8 state of Washington or otherwise in the service or employment of, or
9 holding office under, the state of Washington.

10 (3) The terms and conditions of the enrollment, training,
11 compensation, hours of work, benefits, leave, termination, and all
12 other conditions of service of volunteers shall be exclusively those
13 set forth by the terms of the project. Service as a volunteer may be
14 terminated at any time at the pleasure of the secretary of state.

15 (4) The secretary of state shall not assign project volunteers to
16 perform services that could more appropriately be performed by other
17 agencies within the state or federal government.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) Volunteers shall be provided with
19 living, travel, and leave allowances, and such housing, transportation,
20 supplies, and equipment as the secretary of state may deem necessary
21 for their maintenance and to ensure their health and their capacity to
22 serve effectively. Transportation shall be provided to volunteers for
23 travel to and from the country of service.

24 (2) The secretary of state may establish policies regarding
25 arrangements for spouses and children of volunteers to accompany the
26 volunteers abroad.

27 (3) The secretary of state shall take appropriate measures to
28 ensure the health and safety of volunteers, and to indemnify the state
29 for claims relating to the project.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Funding for the project may come from
31 federal funds, private support funds, grant money available to
32 implement technical assistance programs overseas, state funds, and such
33 other funds as the secretary of state may receive.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The department of community, trade, and
35 economic development, in consultation with the office of protocol, the
36 office of the secretary of state, the department of agriculture, and

1 the employment security department shall identify up to fifteen
2 countries that are of strategic importance to the development of
3 Washington's international trade relations.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act are each
5 added to chapter 43.07 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Sections 8 through 12 of this act expire
7 December 31, 1999.

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