
SENATE BILL 5706

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Senators Pelz, Fraser, Hale, Deccio, Winsley and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/01/95. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to international trade; adding a new chapter to
2 Title 43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

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

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

9 (c) The north american free trade agreement (NAFTA) and the general
10 agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) highlight the increased
11 importance of international trade opportunities to the United States
12 and the state of Washington;

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

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

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

4 (2) The legislature declares that the purpose of the office of the
5 Washington state trade representative is to strengthen and expand the
6 state's activities in marketing its goods and services overseas.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of the Washington state trade
8 representative is created under the office of the governor. The office
9 shall serve as the state's official liaison with foreign governments on
10 trade matters.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The executive and administrative head of
12 the office of the Washington state trade representative shall be the
13 governor's special trade representative. The governor's special trade
14 representative shall be appointed by the governor with consent of the
15 senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The
16 governor's special trade representative shall be paid a salary to be
17 fixed by the governor in accordance with RCW 43.03.040.

18 (2) The governor's special trade representative shall supervise and
19 administer the activities of the office of the Washington state trade
20 representative and shall advise the governor and legislature with
21 respect to trade matters affecting the state.

22 (3) The governor's special trade representative may hire such
23 personnel as may be necessary for the general administration of the
24 office. To the extent permitted by law, state agencies may temporarily
25 assign staff to the office of the Washington state trade representative
26 to assist in carrying out the office's duties and responsibilities
27 under this chapter.

28 (4) The governor's special trade representative is authorized to:

29 (a) Consult with the department of agriculture and the various
30 agricultural commissions, created in Title 15 RCW, on the promotion of
31 Washington agricultural commodities overseas;

32 (b) Consult with the department of community, trade, and economic
33 development on the promotion of Washington goods and services overseas;

34 (c) Establish such advisory or coordinating groups as may be
35 necessary to carry out the purposes of the office of the Washington
36 state trade representative.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act shall
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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