
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4405

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, Conway, Clibborn, Wallace, Green, Appleton, Kenney, McCoy, Chase, Ormsby, Campbell, Simpson, Hasegawa, Sells, Wood and Santos

Read first time 02/03/2005. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

- 1 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing of public and private sector jobs has
2 created concern about job loss in Washington; and
3 WHEREAS, Some contracts entered into by state agencies are being
4 performed, in whole or in part, outside the United States; and
5 WHEREAS, The legislature is concerned that these state contracts
6 are being entered into with little, if any, legislative oversight; and
7 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing of private sector jobs is creating
8 concern about unemployment in our state and demands on our public
9 services; and
10 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing of public and private sector work may
11 be eroding job opportunities and continuing to affect Washington
12 families and communities already suffering from high unemployment and
13 a jobless recovery; and
14 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing may put at risk the privacy of
15 medical records, financial data, and other personal information of
16 Washington citizens; and
17 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing may impact state and local tax
18 revenues needed to provide for the basic education, as well as to
19 protect the public health and safety, of Washington citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing may result in transfers of knowledge
2 and core functions that curb entrepreneurial activities and limit
3 technological innovation essential to the future economic success of
4 Washington businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, The legislature invests significant public resources in
6 work force training and retraining, and wants to ensure that students
7 and workers who benefit from these investments have opportunities to
8 climb career ladders from entry-level jobs to family-wage jobs, and to
9 enjoy the prosperity that is the American dream; and

10 WHEREAS, The legislature has also invested significant public
11 resources in business development, recruitment, and retention, and
12 wants to ensure that corporations that benefit from these investments
13 are accountable to the legislature and the citizens of Washington
14 state; and

15 WHEREAS, The legislature is concerned about and wants to examine
16 the potential consequences of offshore outsourcing;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
18 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a study of
19 offshore outsourcing be conducted to evaluate the following issues:

20 The degree to which state contracts, and any subcontracts awarded
21 under such contracts, are being performed at locations outside the
22 United States;

23 The extent to which the following are adequate to protect
24 legislative authority over state procurement: The process for making
25 and extending the state's commitments under the agreement on government
26 procurement of the world trade organization and other international
27 trade agreements; and the exceptions in the agreement on government
28 procurement of the world trade organization and other international
29 trade agreements;

30 The applicability of international trade agreements to state
31 procurement policies;

32 The compliance of signatories to such agreements with international
33 and state child labor, environmental protection, human rights, and
34 labor standards;

35 The effects of such agreements on domestic preferences adopted by
36 signatories to such agreements;

37 The economic benefit of awarding personal services, purchased
38 services, civil service, and public works contracts to Washington

1 companies, including: The number of total employment positions; the
2 number of full-time, part-time, and temporary employment positions as
3 a percent of total employment; the number of employment positions
4 earning less than twenty thousand dollars, between twenty thousand
5 dollars and thirty thousand dollars, between thirty thousand dollars
6 and forty thousand dollars, between forty thousand dollars and fifty
7 thousand dollars, between fifty thousand dollars and sixty thousand
8 dollars, and more than sixty thousand dollars; and the number of
9 employment positions that have employer-provided medical, dental, and
10 retirement benefits, by each of the wage bands;

11 The economic impacts of performing work under personal services,
12 purchased services, civil service, and public works contracts in
13 Washington, including: The multiplier effect on state and local tax
14 revenues; and the multiplier effect on state and local employment
15 levels;

16 The cost to the state of retraining workers who are separated from
17 employment because their positions were outsourced to locations outside
18 the United States, and issues relative to their eligibility for
19 training benefits under RCW 50.22.150;

20 The extent to which state contracts performed at locations outside
21 the United States involve solicitation or disclosure of personal
22 information; and

23 The relationship between state labor market conditions, including
24 unemployment rate and implications for trade-dependent industries, and
25 offshore outsourcing decisions; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the study be conducted by a joint task
27 force of the House of Representatives and the Senate consisting of the
28 following: Four representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
29 House of Representatives, four representatives to be appointed by the
30 minority leader of the House of Representatives, four senators to be
31 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, and four senators to be
32 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint task force, in conjunction
34 with the private sector, consult with and be advised and monitored by
35 an advisory committee consisting of ten members: Three members
36 representing labor, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate
37 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, from a list of names
38 recommended by a statewide organization representing a cross-section

1 and majority of organized labor in the state; three members
2 representing business, one of whom shall represent small business,
3 appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
4 House of Representatives, from a list of names recommended by a
5 statewide organization of employers representing a majority of
6 employers of the state; one member representing the office of the
7 Washington state trade representative; one member representing an
8 international human rights organization; one member representing an
9 international environmental protection organization; and one member
10 representing the public; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the findings and recommendations of
12 the joint task force shall be reported to the house of representatives
13 committees on commerce and labor, state government, operations and
14 accountability, technology, energy and communications, economic
15 development, agriculture and trade, and the senate committees on labor,
16 commerce, research and development, international trade and economic
17 development, and government operations and elections, or their
18 successor committees, by December 1, 2005.

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