(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 2/14/2008)

Requires the following to be met in regards to the job skills program: (1) Development of additional mechanisms for identification of, and outreach to, firms with a strong potential to effectively compete in the global marketplace after participating in the job skills program. This should be done by using a variety of approaches, including collaboration with industry and cluster associations that have participated in cluster and industry specific public investment programs such as industry skill panels, centers of excellence, innovation zones, local cluster-based economic development initiatives, and federal job training initiatives; and

(2) Encouragement of businesses participating in the job skills program to participate in workshops or training in continuous quality improvement, performance measurement, strategic planning, or other approaches offered by service providers such as Washington manufacturing services, the Washington quality award, or the Washington technology center and designed to improve company productivity and effectiveness.