
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1767

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans
(originally sponsored by Representatives Barnard, Stearns, Chapman,
and Volz)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting economic development by
2 strengthening the role of the department of commerce in monitoring
3 and providing technical assistance related to federal funding
4 opportunities; amending RCW 43.330.050; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recent federal
7 legislation has significantly increased federal grant opportunities.
8 Several federal laws provide funding for economic development
9 clusters that Washington state has invested in as part of an economic
10 development strategy, including broadband, clean energy, clean
11 buildings, and clean transportation. This legislation includes, but
12 is not limited to, the infrastructure investment and jobs act, P.L.
13 117-58, the creating helpful incentives to produce semiconductors
14 (chips) and science act, P.L. 117-167, and the inflation reduction
15 act, P.L. 117-169. Therefore, the legislature intends to increase the
16 capacity of the department of commerce to help the state, local
17 governments, tribes, and small businesses compete for federal grant
18 dollars.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.330.050 and 2016 sp.s. c 12 s 2 are each amended
20 to read as follows:

1 The department shall be responsible for promoting community and
2 economic development within the state by assisting the state's
3 communities to increase the quality of life of their citizens and
4 their economic vitality, and by assisting the state's businesses to
5 maintain and increase their economic competitiveness, while
6 maintaining a healthy environment. Community and economic development
7 efforts shall include: Efforts to increase economic opportunity;
8 local planning to manage growth; the promotion and provision of
9 affordable housing and housing-related services; providing public
10 infrastructure; business and trade development; assisting firms and
11 industrial sectors to increase their competitiveness; fostering the
12 development of minority and women-owned businesses; facilitating
13 technology development, transfer, and diffusion; community services
14 and advocacy for low-income persons; and public safety efforts. The
15 department shall have the following general functions and
16 responsibilities:

17 (1) Provide advisory assistance to the governor, other state
18 agencies, and the legislature on community and economic development
19 matters and issues;

20 (2) Assist the governor in coordinating the activities of state
21 agencies that have an impact on local government and communities;

22 (3) Cooperate with the legislature and the governor in the
23 development and implementation of strategic plans for the state's
24 community and economic development efforts;

25 (4) Solicit private and federal grants for economic and community
26 development programs and administer such programs in conjunction with
27 other programs assigned to the department by the governor or the
28 legislature. To maximize the impact of federal funding for economic
29 development, the department must ~~((coordinate))~~:

30 (a) Coordinate with federal and state public research facilities
31 to leverage other federal funding coming to the state for research,
32 development, innovation of new technologies, and transfer of
33 technology to the private sector to promote business development and
34 jobs in Washington; and

35 (b) Provide technical assistance, to the extent funding is made
36 available for this specific purpose, to assist tribes, local
37 governments, small businesses, and underserved communities in
38 developing competitive applications for federal funding;

39 (5) Cooperate with and provide technical and financial assistance
40 to local governments, businesses, and community-based organizations

1 serving the communities of the state for the purpose of aiding and
2 encouraging orderly, productive, and coordinated development of the
3 state, and, unless stipulated otherwise, give additional
4 consideration to local communities and individuals with the greatest
5 relative need and the fewest resources;

6 (6) Participate with other states or subdivisions thereof in
7 interstate programs and assist cities, counties, municipal
8 corporations, governmental conferences or councils, and regional
9 planning commissions to participate with other states and provinces
10 or their subdivisions;

11 (7) Hold public hearings and meetings to carry out the purposes
12 of this chapter;

13 (8) Conduct research and analysis in furtherance of the state's
14 economic and community development efforts including maintenance of
15 current information on market, demographic, and economic trends as
16 they affect different industrial sectors, geographic regions, and
17 communities with special economic and social problems in the state;
18 and

19 (9) Develop a schedule of fees for services where appropriate.

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