

SENATE BILL 5008

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Bluechel, Gaspard, Hayner, Snyder, Matson, Vognild, Cantu, McMullen, von Reichbauer, Nelson, McDonald, Barr, Sellar, Bailey, Moore, Conner and Bauer.

Read first time January 14, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment of The Pacific Northwest
2 Economic Region; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a
6 new emerging global economy in which countries and regions located in
7 specific areas of the world are forging new cooperative arrangements.

8 The legislature finds that these new cooperative arrangements are
9 increasing the competitiveness of the participating countries and
10 regions, thus increasing the economic benefits and the overall quality
11 of life for the citizens of the individual countries and regions.

12 The legislature also finds that the Pacific Northwest states of
13 Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington and the Canadian
14 provinces of Alberta and British Columbia are in a strategic position

1 to act together, as a region, thus increasing the overall
2 competitiveness of the individual states and provinces that will
3 provide substantial economic benefits for all of their citizens.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Pacific Northwest Economic Region is
5 hereby enacted into law and entered into by the state of Washington as
6 a party, and is in full force and effect in accordance with the terms
7 of this agreement.

8 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION

9 ARTICLE I--Policy and Purpose

10 States and provinces participating in The Pacific Northwest
11 Economic Region shall seek to develop and establish policies that:
12 Promote greater regional collaboration among the seven entities;
13 enhance the overall competitiveness of the region in international and
14 domestic markets; increase the economic well-being of all citizens in
15 the region; and improve the quality of life of the citizens of the
16 Pacific Northwest.

17 States and provinces recognize that there are many public policy
18 areas in which cooperation and joint efforts would be mutually
19 beneficial. These areas include, but are not limited to:
20 International trade; economic development; human resources; the
21 environment and natural resources; energy; and education. Parties to
22 this agreement shall work diligently to establish collaborative
23 activity in these and other appropriate policy areas where such
24 cooperation is deemed worthwhile and of benefit to the participating
25 entities. Participating states and provinces also agree that there are
26 areas in which cooperation may not be feasible.

1 The substantive actions of The Pacific Northwest Economic Region
2 may take the form of uniform legislation enacted by two or more states
3 and/or provinces or policy initiatives endorsed as appropriate by
4 participating entities. It shall not be necessary for all states and
5 provinces to participate in each initiative.

6 ARTICLE II--Eligible Parties and Effective Date

7 Each of the following states and provinces is eligible to become a
8 party to this agreement: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho,
9 Montana, Oregon, and Washington. This agreement establishing The
10 Pacific Northwest Economic Region shall become effective when it is
11 executed by one state, one province, and one additional state and/or
12 province in a form deemed appropriate by each entity. This agreement
13 shall continue in force and remain binding upon each state and province
14 until renounced by it. Renunciation of this agreement must be preceded
15 by sending one year's notice in writing of intention to withdraw from
16 the agreement to the other parties to the agreement.

17 ARTICLE III--Organizational Structure

18 Each state and province participating in this agreement shall
19 appoint representatives to The Pacific Northwest Economic Region. The
20 organizational structure of The Pacific Northwest Economic Region shall
21 consist of the following: A delegate council consisting of four
22 legislators from each participating state and four representatives from
23 each participating province and an executive committee consisting of
24 one legislator from each participating state and/or province who is a
25 member of the delegate council. Policy committees may be established

1 to carry out further duties and responsibilities of The Pacific
2 Northwest Economic Region.

3 ARTICLE IV--Duties and Responsibilities

4 The delegate council shall have the following duties and
5 responsibilities: Facilitate the involvement of other government
6 officials in the development and implementation of specific
7 collaborative initiatives; work with policy-making committees in the
8 development and implementation of specific initiatives; approve general
9 organizational policies developed by the executive committee; provide
10 final approval of the annual budget and staffing structure for The
11 Pacific Northwest Economic Region developed by the executive committee;
12 and other duties and responsibilities as may be established in the
13 rules and regulations of The Pacific Northwest Economic Region. The
14 executive committee shall perform the following duties and
15 responsibilities: Elect the president and vice-president of The
16 Pacific Northwest Economic Region; approve and implement general
17 organizational policies; develop the annual budget; devise the annual
18 action plan; act as liaison with other public and private sector
19 entities; and other duties and responsibilities established in the
20 rules and regulations of The Pacific Northwest Economic Region. The
21 rules and regulations of The Pacific Northwest Economic Region shall
22 establish the procedure for voting.

23 ARTICLE V--Membership of Policy Committees

24 Policy committees dealing with specific subject matter may be
25 established by the executive committee.

1 Each participating state and province shall appoint legislators to
2 sit on these committees in accordance with its own rules and
3 regulations concerning such appointments.

4 ARTICLE VI--General Provisions

5 This agreement shall not be construed to limit the powers of any
6 state or province or to amend or repeal or prevent the enactment of any
7 legislation.

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

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as
11 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
12 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the Northwest Policy
13 Center for the purposes of funding the activities of The Pacific
14 Northwest Economic Region.