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SENATE BILL 5514

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon, Bluechel, Williams, Erwin, Skratek, M. Rasmussen, Deccio and Snyder

Read first time 02/01/93. Referred to Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to economic development grants; adding new sections  
2 to chapter 43.41 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that state-supported  
5 economic development efforts, including work force training, technology  
6 transfer, and industrial modernization, can make a significant  
7 difference in the health and diversification of the state's economy.  
8 There are numerous federal and private economic development grant  
9 programs and research projects designed to increase the competitiveness  
10 of American firms and local work forces, for which state agencies and  
11 local consortiums are eligible to apply. The legislature further  
12 finds that state agencies in Washington have not maximized the  
13 opportunities available to them to facilitate the receipt of federal  
14 and private funds by Washington firms, nor have they maximized the  
15 opportunities available to receive federal funds directly to augment  
16 state economic development efforts.

17 The legislature declares that it is the state's policy to maximize  
18 the use of federal and private funds for economic development purposes  
19 and to devote state resources to leverage federal and private dollars

1 to supplement state economic development efforts. In furtherance of  
2 this policy, it is the purpose of section 2 of this act to authorize  
3 and fund a technical assistance and grant writing program within the  
4 office of financial management.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 The economic development grants program is created in the office of  
8 financial management. The program shall be operated by a managing  
9 director with the support of at least one grant writer either on  
10 contract or on staff. The managing director shall:

11 (1) Regularly review the federal register for opportunities to  
12 apply for grants, research projects, and demonstration projects;

13 (2) Stay abreast of grant opportunities with private foundations;

14 (3) Correspond and meet with federal officials, including those in  
15 the small business administration, the department of labor, the  
16 department of commerce, and the department of health and human  
17 services, as well as foundation officials, on the prospects for  
18 obtaining federal and private funds for economic development purposes  
19 in Washington state;

20 (4) Work with the agency heads and division directors of the  
21 departments of trade and economic development, the employment security  
22 department, the department of agriculture, the department of community  
23 development, the Washington technology center, and other state agencies  
24 as appropriate, to apprise them of the opportunities for federal and  
25 private grant dollars for economic development projects;

26 (5) Work with business, labor, and community groups to apprise them  
27 of the opportunities for federal and private grant dollars for economic  
28 development projects via publications, electronic bulletin boards, or  
29 toll-free phone lines;

30 (6) Assist state agencies in their grant-seeking efforts for  
31 economic development projects. Grant writing for and assistance in  
32 grant writing for projects sponsored or cosponsored by state agencies  
33 shall be the highest priority of the program's work;

34 (7) Assist local business, labor, and community consortiums in  
35 their grant-seeking efforts for economic development projects.

36 (8) Facilitate coordination and linkages between agencies and  
37 between local consortiums and state agencies that will increase the  
38 likelihood of success in grant seeking; and

1 (8) Garner the political support necessary from federal and state  
2 elected and appointed officials for success in grant seeking.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.31 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 The department shall ensure that the business assistance center,  
6 the small business development centers, and the associate development  
7 organizations that operate under the authority of the department notify  
8 their constituencies and clients of the availability of the technical  
9 assistance services of the economic development grants program created  
10 in section 2 of this act.

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