

2 **SSB 6618** - H COMM AMD **ADOPTED 2-29-96**
3 By Committee on Appropriations

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The citizens of Washington should enjoy a
8 high quality of life, which requires a healthy state economy. To
9 achieve this goal, the legislature recognizes that the state must be
10 able to compete economically at a national and international level. It
11 is critical to the economic well-being of the citizens of this state
12 that the legislature strive to continually improve the state's economic
13 climate. Therefore, the legislature intends to provide a mechanism
14 whereby the information necessary to achieve this goal is available on
15 a timely and reliable basis.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The economic climate council is hereby
17 created.

18 (2) The council shall select a series of no more than ten
19 benchmarks that characterize the competitive environment of the state.
20 The benchmarks should be indicators of the cost of doing business; the
21 education and skills of the work force; a sound infrastructure; and the
22 quality of life. In selecting the appropriate benchmarks, the council
23 shall use the following criteria:

24 (a) The availability of comparative information for other states
25 and countries;

26 (b) The timeliness with which benchmark information can be
27 obtained; and

28 (c) The accuracy and validity of the benchmarks in measuring the
29 economic climate indicators named in this section.

30 The council shall report to the governor and the fiscal committees
31 of the senate and the house of representatives by September 30, 1996,
32 on the benchmarks selected under this subsection (2).

33 (3) Periodically each year the council shall prepare an official
34 state economic climate report on the present status of benchmarks,
35 changes in the benchmarks since the previous report, and the reasons

1 for the changes. The reports shall include current benchmark
2 comparisons with other states and countries, and an analysis of factors
3 related to the benchmarks that may affect the ability of the state to
4 compete economically at the national and international level.

5 (4) The council shall periodically submit reports prepared under
6 this section to the governor and the fiscal committees of the senate
7 and the house of representatives. The first report shall be made by
8 September 30, 1996.

9 (5) All agencies of state government shall provide to the council
10 immediate access to all information relating to economic climate
11 reports.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Until July 1, 1997, the economic and
13 revenue forecast council shall, in addition to its other duties and
14 responsibilities, function as the economic climate council created
15 under section 2 of this act.

16 (2) The staff of the economic and revenue forecast council shall
17 serve as staff to the economic climate council until July 1, 1997.

18 (3) By September 30, 1996, the council shall make recommendations
19 to the legislature regarding: (a) Permanent composition of the
20 economic climate council, including the procedures for appointment of
21 members, length of terms, selection of a chair, and reimbursement for
22 expenses or other compensation; and (b) a permanent staffing structure
23 to support the work of the economic climate council.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The economic climate council shall
25 create an advisory committee to assist the council in selecting
26 benchmarks and developing economic climate reports and benchmarks. The
27 advisory committee shall provide for a process to ensure public
28 participation in the selection of the benchmarks. The advisory
29 committee shall consist of no more than seven members. At least two of
30 the members of the advisory committee shall have experience in and
31 represent business, and at least two of the members shall have
32 experience in and represent labor. All of the members of the advisory
33 committee shall have special expertise and interest in the state's
34 economic climate and competitive strategies. Appointments to the
35 advisory committee shall be recommended by the chair of the council and
36 approved by a two-thirds vote of the council. The chair of the
37 advisory committee shall be selected by the members of the committee.

1 (2) The advisory committee shall meet as determined by the chair of
2 the committee until September 30, 1996, and shall meet at least twice
3 per year thereafter in advance of the economic climate reports.

4 (3) Members of the advisory council shall serve without
5 compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance
6 with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 while attending meetings of the
7 advisory committee, sessions of the economic climate council, or on
8 official business authorized by the council.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1, 2, and 4 of this act shall
10 constitute a new chapter in Title 82 RCW."

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14 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "performance;" strike the
15 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new chapter to Title 82
16 RCW; and creating a new section."

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