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HOUSE BILL 3086

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake, Veloria and Chase

Read first time 01/27/2004. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a maritime office in the department of  
2 community, trade, and economic development; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 43.63A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington's maritime trade represents a  
6 complex network that includes ocean carriers, shippers, port facilities  
7 and operations, regional and continental road and rail networks,  
8 trucking operators, cargo trafficking and traffic management, internal  
9 and third-party freight forwarding services, emerging inland  
10 distribution centers, and the final customers. Puget Sound has some of  
11 the busiest container cargo ports in the United States, handling more  
12 than one hundred three billion dollars in trade. However, there is a  
13 great deal of competition for much of the offloading from the other  
14 ports. And the pressures on our maritime industry are growing every  
15 day due to stiff market competition, new and emerging ports, highway  
16 and rail infrastructure improvements in other areas, and waterway and  
17 port security.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW  
2   to read as follows:

3        (1)   The department of community, trade, and economic development  
4   shall develop the Washington maritime office.

5        (2)   The Washington maritime office shall provide the maritime  
6   industry with enhanced knowledge, resources, and advocacy, by working  
7   with federal and state agencies, local governments, maritime  
8   businesses, and maritime organizations to:

- 9        (a)   Bring potential trading partners together;
- 10        (b)   Identify strategic infrastructure priorities and needs;
- 11        (c)   Attract key freight services;
- 12        (d)   Measure performance; and
- 13        (e)   Identify work force needs.

14        (3)   The Washington maritime office shall collect and distribute  
15   data regarding the maritime trade and industry.   A report summarizing  
16   the data shall be made available annually.

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