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SENATE BILL 5400

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kilmer, Kastama, Kauffman, Shin, Berkey and Delvin

Read first time 01/18/2007.      Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Management.

1            AN ACT Relating to aligning economic development and workforce  
2 development; amending RCW 43.162.010 and 28C.18.020; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that workforce  
6 investment is an indispensable economic development strategy in a  
7 global economy, but the connections between workforce and economic  
8 development programs have not been strong enough. It is the purpose of  
9 this act to facilitate interagency coordination, helping to strengthen  
10 the connection between workforce and economic development programs.

11           **Sec. 2.**    RCW 43.162.010 and 2003 c 235 s 2 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13           (1)    The Washington state economic development commission is  
14 established to oversee the economic development strategies and policies  
15 of the department of community, trade, and economic development.

16           (2)(a)    The Washington state economic development commission shall  
17 consist of at least seven and no more than (~~nine~~) ten members  
18 appointed by the governor.

1 (b) In making the appointments, the governor shall consult with  
2 organizations that have an interest in economic development, including,  
3 but not limited to, industry associations, labor organizations,  
4 minority business associations, economic development councils, chambers  
5 of commerce, port associations, tribes, and the chairs of the  
6 legislative committees with jurisdiction over economic development.

7 (c) The members shall be representative of the geographic regions  
8 of the state, including eastern and central Washington, as well as  
9 represent the ethnic diversity of the state. Representation shall  
10 derive primarily from the private sector, including, but not limited  
11 to, existing and emerging industries, small businesses, women-owned  
12 businesses, and minority-owned businesses, but other sectors of the  
13 economy that have experience in economic development, including labor  
14 organizations and nonprofit organizations, shall be represented as  
15 well. A minimum of seventy-five percent of the members shall represent  
16 the private sector. Members of the commission shall serve statewide  
17 interests while preserving their diverse perspectives, and shall be  
18 recognized leaders in their fields with demonstrated experience in  
19 disciplines related to economic development. The executive director of  
20 the workforce training and education coordinating board, created under  
21 RCW 28C.18.020, shall be appointed ex officio, as a nonvoting member of  
22 the economic development commission.

23 (3) Members appointed by the governor shall serve at the pleasure  
24 of the governor for three-year terms, except that through June 30,  
25 2004, members currently serving on the economic development commission  
26 created by executive order may continue to serve at the pleasure of the  
27 governor. Of the initial members appointed to serve after June 30,  
28 2004, two members shall serve one-year terms, three members shall serve  
29 two-year terms, and the remainder of the commission members shall serve  
30 three-year terms.

31 (4) The commission chair shall be selected from among the appointed  
32 members by the majority vote of the members.

33 (5) The commission may establish committees as it desires, and may  
34 invite nonmembers of the commission to serve as committee members.

35 (6) The commission may adopt rules for its own governance.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28C.18.020 and 1991 c 238 s 3 are each amended to read  
37 as follows:

1 (1) There is hereby created the workforce training and education  
2 coordinating board as a state agency and as the successor agency to the  
3 state board for vocational education. Once the coordinating board has  
4 convened, all references to the state board for vocational education in  
5 the Revised Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the workforce  
6 training and education coordinating board, except that reference to the  
7 state board for vocational education in RCW 49.04.030 shall mean the  
8 state board for community and technical colleges.

9 (2)(a) The board shall consist of nine voting members appointed by  
10 the governor with the consent of the senate, as follows: Three  
11 representatives of business, three representatives of labor, and,  
12 serving as ex officio members, the superintendent of public  
13 instruction, the executive director of the state board for community  
14 and technical colleges, and the commissioner of the employment security  
15 department. The chair of the board shall be a nonvoting member  
16 selected by the governor with the consent of the senate, and shall  
17 serve at the pleasure of the governor. In selecting the chair, the  
18 governor shall seek a person who understands the future economic needs  
19 of the state and nation and the role that the state's training system  
20 has in meeting those needs. Each voting member of the board may  
21 appoint a designee to function in his or her place with the right to  
22 vote. In making appointments to the board, the governor shall seek to  
23 ensure geographic, ethnic, and gender diversity and balance. The  
24 governor shall also seek to ensure diversity and balance by the  
25 appointment of persons with disabilities.

26 (b) The business representatives shall be selected from among  
27 nominations provided by a statewide business organization representing  
28 a cross-section of industries. However, the governor may request, and  
29 the organization shall provide, an additional list or lists from which  
30 the governor shall select the business representatives. The  
31 nominations and selections shall reflect the cultural diversity of the  
32 state, including women, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic  
33 minorities, and diversity in sizes of businesses.

34 (c) The labor representatives shall be selected from among  
35 nominations provided by statewide labor organizations. However, the  
36 governor may request, and the organizations shall provide, an  
37 additional list or lists from which the governor shall select the labor

1 representatives. The nominations and selections shall reflect the  
2 cultural diversity of the state, including women, people with  
3 disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities.

4 (d) Each business member may cast a proxy vote or votes for any  
5 business member who is not present and who authorizes in writing the  
6 present member to cast such vote.

7 (e) Each labor member may cast a proxy vote for any labor member  
8 who is not present and who authorizes in writing the present member to  
9 cast such vote.

10 (f) The chair shall appoint to the board one nonvoting member to  
11 represent racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people with  
12 disabilities. The nonvoting member appointed by the chair shall serve  
13 for a term of four years with the term expiring on June 30th of the  
14 fourth year of the term.

15 (g) The director of the department of community, trade, and  
16 economic development shall serve ex officio, as a nonvoting member of  
17 the board.

18 (h) The business members of the board shall serve for terms of four  
19 years, the terms expiring on June 30th of the fourth year of the term  
20 except that in the case of initial members, one shall be appointed to  
21 a two-year term and one appointed to a three-year term.

22 ((+h)) (i) The labor members of the board shall serve for terms of  
23 four years, the terms expiring on June 30th of the fourth year of the  
24 term except that in the case of initial members, one shall be appointed  
25 to a two-year term and one appointed to a three-year term.

26 ((+i)) (j) Any vacancies among board members representing business  
27 or labor shall be filled by the governor with nominations provided by  
28 statewide organizations representing business or labor, respectively.

29 ((+j)) (k) The board shall adopt bylaws and shall meet at least  
30 bimonthly and at such other times as determined by the chair who shall  
31 give reasonable prior notice to the members or at the request of a  
32 majority of the voting members.

33 ((+k)) (l) Members of the board shall be compensated in accordance  
34 with RCW 43.03.040 and shall receive travel expenses in accordance with  
35 RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

36 ((+l)) (m) The board shall be formed and ready to assume its  
37 responsibilities under this chapter by October 1, 1991.

1        (~~(m)~~) (n) The director of the board shall be appointed by the  
2 governor from a list of three names submitted by a committee made up of  
3 the business and labor members of the board. However, the governor may  
4 request, and the committee shall provide, an additional list or lists  
5 from which the governor shall select the director. The lists compiled  
6 by the committee shall not be subject to public disclosure. The  
7 governor may dismiss the director only with the approval of a majority  
8 vote of the board. The board, by a majority vote, may dismiss the  
9 director with the approval of the governor.

10        (3) The state board for vocational education is hereby abolished  
11 and its powers, duties, and functions are hereby transferred to the  
12 workforce training and education coordinating board. All references to  
13 the director or the state board for vocational education in the Revised  
14 Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the director or the  
15 workforce training and education coordinating board.

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