

SB 5399 - DIGEST

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 3/6/2007)

Requires the workforce training and education coordinating board and the economic development commission to convene a working group, consisting of the department of community, trade, and economic development, the employment security department, the state board for community and technical colleges, a representative of local economic development councils and local workforce development councils to create a framework for the identification of economic clusters, as well as service and resource delivery to the clusters. The working group shall: (1) Specify the process for identification of substate geographic concentrations of firms or employment in an industry and their customers, suppliers, supporting businesses, and institutions, which process will include the use of labor market information from the employment security department and local labor markets;

(2) Establish criteria for identifying strategic clusters, which are important to economic prosperity in the state, considering cluster size, growth rate, and wage levels among other factors;

(3) Identify the public resources available which could be more intensively devoted to assist clusters;

(4) Identify mechanisms by which public resources can be coordinated and more efficiently delivered to support the growth and competitiveness of clusters, including the consistent timing of grant applications, the development of common criteria for receipt of grants, and the establishment of grant review committees with overlapping membership.