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SENATE BILL 5475

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama and Pridemore

Read first time 01/23/09. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 AN ACT Relating to economic development planning; amending RCW  
2 43.330.080; and adding a new section to chapter 36.70A RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 Counties planning under RCW 36.70A.070 must have completed the  
7 economic development element of their comprehensive plan by June 30,  
8 2010, notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter. In  
9 designating associate development organizations under RCW 43.330.080,  
10 counties planning under RCW 36.70A.070 may direct that state resources  
11 available to the associate development organization shall be used by  
12 the associate development organization to complete the countywide  
13 economic development plan as set out in RCW 43.330.080(2)(c) and the  
14 economic development element of the county comprehensive plan as set  
15 out in RCW 36.70A.070.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.330.080 and 2007 c 249 s 2 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 The department shall contract with county-designated associate

1 development organizations to increase the support for and coordination  
2 of community and economic development services in communities or  
3 regional areas. The organizations contracted with in each community or  
4 regional area shall be broadly representative of community and economic  
5 interests. The organization shall be capable of identifying key  
6 economic and community development problems, developing appropriate  
7 solutions, and mobilizing broad support for recommended initiatives.  
8 The contracting organization shall work with and include local  
9 governments, local chambers of commerce, workforce development  
10 councils, port districts, labor groups, institutions of higher  
11 education, community action programs, and other appropriate private,  
12 public, or nonprofit community and economic development groups. The  
13 scope of services delivered under these contracts shall include two  
14 broad areas of work:

15 (1) Direct assistance, including business planning, to companies  
16 who need support to stay in business, expand, or relocate to Washington  
17 from out of state or other countries. Assistance includes:

18 (a) Working with the appropriate partners, including but not  
19 limited to, local governments, workforce development organizations,  
20 port districts, community colleges and higher education institutions,  
21 export assistance providers, the Washington manufacturing services, the  
22 Washington state quality award((7)) council, small business assistance  
23 programs, and other federal, state, and local programs to facilitate  
24 the alignment of planning efforts and the seamless delivery of business  
25 support services in the county;

26 (b) Providing information, via web sites and other methods, on  
27 state and local permitting processes, tax issues, tax incentives,  
28 customized training and job skills training programs, and other  
29 essential information for operating, expanding, or locating a business  
30 in Washington;

31 (c) Marketing Washington and local areas as excellent locations to  
32 expand or relocate a business and positioning Washington as a globally  
33 competitive place to grow business, which may include developing and  
34 executing regional plans to attract companies from out of state;

35 (d) Working with businesses on site location and selection  
36 assistance;

37 (e) Providing business retention and expansion services, including

1 business outreach and monitoring efforts to identify and address  
2 challenges and opportunities faced by businesses; and

3 (f) (~~Participate~~ [~~Participating~~]) Participating in economic  
4 development system-wide discussions regarding gaps in business start-up  
5 assistance in Washington and, working with state and local partners,  
6 developing programs to address the gaps; and

7 (2) Support for regional economic research and regional planning  
8 efforts to implement target industry strategies and other economic  
9 development strategies that support increased living standards and  
10 increase foreign direct investment throughout Washington. Activities  
11 include:

12 (a) Participation in regional planning efforts involving combined  
13 strategies around workforce development and economic development  
14 policies and programs. The contracting organization shall participate  
15 with the state board for community and technical colleges as created in  
16 RCW 28B.50.050, and any community and technical colleges in providing  
17 for the coordination of job skills training within its region;

18 (b) Collecting and reporting data as specified by the contract with  
19 the department for statewide systemic analysis. The department shall  
20 consult with the Washington state economic development commission in  
21 the establishment of such uniform data as is needed to conduct a  
22 statewide systemic analysis of the state's economic development  
23 programs and expenditures. In cooperation with other local, regional,  
24 and state planning efforts, contracting organizations may provide  
25 insight into the needs of target industry clusters, business expansion  
26 plans, early detection of potential relocations or layoffs, training  
27 needs, and other appropriate economic information;

28 (c) In conjunction with other governmental jurisdictions and  
29 institutions, (~~participate~~) taking the lead in the development of a  
30 countywide economic development plan, which may serve as the economic  
31 development element of a county's comprehensive plan, consistent with  
32 the state comprehensive plan for economic development developed by the  
33 Washington state economic development commission.

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