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SENATE BILL 6479

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Chase, Brown, McCoy, Ericksen, Ranker, Carlyle, Frockt, Schoesler, Conway, Roach, Honeyford, Hasegawa, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/21/16. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment of a joint select committee  
2 to investigate the creation of a Washington state council for the  
3 Pacific Northwest economic region; creating a new section; and  
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) A legislative joint select  
7 committee on the creation of a Washington state council for the  
8 Pacific Northwest economic region is established, with members as  
9 provided in this subsection.

10 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from  
11 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

12 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint  
13 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
14 representatives.

15 (b) The committee shall choose its chair from among its  
16 membership.

17 (2) The joint select committee shall review the costs and  
18 benefits of creating a Washington state council for the Pacific  
19 Northwest economic region and investigate possible avenues to expand  
20 cross-border partnership on substantive issues such as:

21 (a) Sewage treatment and disposal by Victoria, British Columbia;

- 1 (b) Customs preclearance for cruise ships, railroads, and  
2 frequent travelers;
- 3 (c) Workforce and professional license reciprocity;
- 4 (d) Invasive species;
- 5 (e) Mining;
- 6 (f) International trade agreements, harmonization, and good  
7 neighbor agreements;
- 8 (g) Expanding tourism;
- 9 (h) Energy and environmental challenges;
- 10 (i) Regional carbon and low carbon economy matters;
- 11 (j) The Columbia river treaty;
- 12 (k) Railroads;
- 13 (l) The establishment of regular joint cabinet meetings between  
14 regional entities; and
- 15 (m) Relations between states, tribes, and provinces.
- 16 (3) The joint select committee shall meet:
- 17 (a) Either three or four times in 2016, with each meeting in one  
18 of the following areas within Washington state and no more than one  
19 meeting in each area: Vancouver; Spokane; the Tri-Cities; and  
20 Bellingham or Seattle;
- 21 (b) Once with counterparts in British Columbia; and
- 22 (c) Once together with Pacific Northwest economic region  
23 colleagues from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana.
- 24 (4) The joint select committee shall create and consult an  
25 advisory committee of stakeholders to assist in the development of  
26 recommendations under this section. Members of such advisory  
27 committee are appointed by the chair of the joint select committee.
- 28 (5) Staff support for the joint select committee must be provided  
29 by the senate committee services and the house of representatives  
30 office of program research.
- 31 (6) Legislative members of the joint select committee are  
32 reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.  
33 Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel  
34 expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on behalf  
35 of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization. Any  
36 reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter  
37 43.03 RCW.
- 38 (7) The expenses of the joint select committee must be paid  
39 jointly by the senate and the house of representatives. Committee  
40 expenditures are subject to approval by the senate facilities and

1 operations committee and the house of representatives executive rules  
2 committee, or their successor committees.

3 (8) The joint select committee shall report its findings and  
4 recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
5 December 31, 2016.

6 (9) This section expires December 31, 2016.

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