
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1170

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By House Community & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Boehnke, Paul, Walsh, Kloba, Shewmake, Santos, Springer, Dolan, Dye, Graham, Leavitt, McCaslin, Young, Walen, Riccelli, Bateman, Lovick, Lekanoff, Eslick, Frame, Barkis, Sutherland, Robertson, and Dent)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to building economic strength through
2 manufacturing; adding new sections to chapter 43.330 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
6 Washington BEST manufacturing act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** It is the intent of the legislature that
8 Washington retain and build on its leadership in the manufacturing
9 and research and development sectors. The legislature finds that a
10 thriving research and production sector are complimentary and should
11 be promoted in every region of the state. The legislature finds this
12 is critical to provide a strong, resilient tax base for good schools,
13 safe streets, and community optimism. Therefore, the legislature
14 intends to identify and invest in strategies to ensure every
15 geographic region of the state can benefit from a strong
16 manufacturing and research and development base, with the goal of
17 doubling the state's manufacturing employment base, the number of
18 small businesses, and the number of women and minority-owned
19 manufacturing businesses in the next 10 years.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department is responsible for
2 identifying and developing strategies to help achieve the goals
3 established in section 2 of this act. In support of pursuing the
4 goal, the department must prepare and update each fiscal biennium a
5 report on the state of the manufacturing and research and development
6 industry and workforce. The report must identify progress or
7 challenges the state has encountered in achieving the goals
8 established in section 2 of this act and identify recommendations to
9 the legislature.

10 (2) The report may include, but not be limited to:

11 (a) Recommendations for specific actions to develop a
12 manufacturing workforce pipeline and specific manufacturing
13 subsectors that present workforce opportunities or challenges;

14 (b) Identification of dislocated workers;

15 (c) Career-connected learning opportunities;

16 (d) A survey of financial aid that can be leveraged to fund
17 training for the manufacturing workforce pipeline, such as Washington
18 college grant opportunities, passport to careers, and prison to
19 postsecondary funding;

20 (e) Recommendations on improving the state's competitiveness for
21 manufacturing and research and development job retention and
22 creation;

23 (f) Identification of high-demand advanced manufacturing
24 industries and subsectors globally;

25 (g) Identification of site selection criteria of advanced
26 manufacturing and research and development projects; and

27 (h) Recommendations of best practices to streamline environmental
28 permit approval and appeal processes for the purpose of getting
29 manufacturing businesses who want to site or expand in Washington
30 more certainty, faster.

31 (3) The department must convene a manufacturing council to advise
32 and consult on the development of the report and recommendations.

33 (a) The director or the director's designee must appoint to the
34 council such persons from the private, nonprofit, and public sectors
35 as may best inform the state's ability to innovate, diversify supply
36 chains, and expand living wage jobs in the manufacturing sector.

37 (b) Representatives must include small to mid-sized private
38 sector manufacturing businesses, labor and apprenticeship programs,
39 statewide business associations, higher education institutions, and
40 workforce partners. The department must work to ensure:

- 1 (i) Equal representation of business and labor on the council;
2 (ii) That appointees represent every region of the state such
3 that economic diversification across all regions is supported; and
4 (iii) That the council includes a strong array of voices from
5 women and minority executives and labor in manufacturing.

6 (4) All state agencies with expertise in workforce development
7 and economic development are encouraged to provide such information
8 and resources as may be requested to inform and facilitate
9 identification and analysis of public policy challenges and potential
10 recommendations for the report in subsections (1) and (2) of this
11 section.

12 (5) In its first biennial report, the department shall coordinate
13 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
14 state board for community and technical colleges to assess any
15 inadequacy or gaps in delivering hands-on, skills-based learning
16 remotely to all Washingtonians seeking to enter the manufacturing
17 workforce or to be retrained for a transition within the
18 manufacturing workforce.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department must support the
20 development of regionally tailored strategies to facilitate the
21 continued existence and development of manufacturing workforce across
22 the state.

23 (2) To support regional manufacturing cluster development and job
24 creation, the department must grant any funding provided in section 5
25 of this act for initiatives that accelerate the development of
26 regional clusters intended to grow living wage jobs in manufacturing
27 and research and development.

28 (3) The department is encouraged to consider the creation of
29 regional offices or establishing additional duty stations that
30 facilitate sector leads to be located in the regions most dependent
31 on their sector.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The manufacturing cluster acceleration
33 subaccount is established in the economic development strategic
34 reserve account. All receipts from appropriations made to the
35 manufacturing cluster acceleration subaccount shall be deposited into
36 the subaccount.

37 (2) The department may make expenditures from the subaccount to
38 support regional cluster acceleration strategies, including:

1 Supporting projects to assist manufacturers to diversify their
2 customer base and supply chain, supporting pilot or demonstration
3 manufacturing projects coordination with organized cluster
4 initiatives, and supporting projects that are intended to increase
5 manufacturing and research and development jobs regionally.

6 (3) The department is encouraged to seek match funds for any
7 funds appropriated to this account and may utilize funds to match
8 nonstate funds being expended on a specific project that aligns with
9 the purpose of this section.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The department must appoint a
11 workforce innovation sector lead, to coordinate workforce activities
12 and needs identified by industry sector leads such as the
13 manufacturing, clean technology, and aerospace sector leads, and
14 connect this work with the lead workforce agencies to inform
15 strategic allocation of funding.

16 (2) Within existing resources, the department must report to the
17 appropriate committees of the legislature beginning December 1, 2022,
18 and continuing every fourth year thereafter, the progress made in
19 developing, recruiting, and retaining research and development
20 employers and workforce; and a description of how the state's policy
21 toolkit for developing strength in research and development as a
22 sector compares to competitor states.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The duties in sections 2 through 6 of this
24 act are subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for the
25 specific purpose.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 7 of this act are each
27 added to chapter 43.330 RCW and codified with the subchapter heading
28 of "MANUFACTURING AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR PROMOTION."

--- END ---