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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2446**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** House Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans (originally sponsored by Representatives Barnard, Ryu, Salahuddin, Shavers, and Donaghy)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing the quantum technology industry  
2 into the state's economic development and workforce; creating new  
3 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that quantum  
6 technology has the potential to revolutionize traditional industries,  
7 with implications for society in terms of health care, climate  
8 change, energy, and security. Quantum technologies use the properties  
9 identified by quantum physics to provide new capabilities in a  
10 variety of applications, including computing, networking,  
11 communications, and sensing.

12 The legislature further finds that the quantum technology  
13 industry is expected to create trillions of dollars of value over the  
14 next decade, and that policymakers worldwide are investing in quantum  
15 technology to ensure their participation in a future quantum economy.  
16 As economic competition grows and businesses choose locations based  
17 on each state's investment, Washington has limited time to leverage  
18 its technological and scientific assets to lead the next generation  
19 and drive new economic growth in the quantum technology industry.

20 The legislature further finds that in 2024 and 2025, California  
21 invested \$4,000,000 in quantum research and innovation, Colorado has

1 received \$40,500,000 in federal grants and over \$1,000,000,000 in  
2 private funding to build a quantum ecosystem, Illinois allocated  
3 \$500,000,000 to build a national quantum hub and infrastructure to  
4 attract quantum companies, and North Carolina has received  
5 \$10,000,000 to research hybrid quantum computing processors.

6 Therefore, to promote economic development and the next  
7 generation workforce, the legislature finds that the development of a  
8 state quantum strategy is necessary to ensure Washington remains  
9 competitive in the quantum technology industry. A state strategy  
10 should identify how state funds can promote economic growth, identify  
11 opportunities for public-private partnerships, and require private  
12 donations to be used to obtain additional grants and develop  
13 partnerships to accelerate the state's quantum technology industry.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of commerce shall  
15 develop a state quantum technology strategy.

16 (2) The state quantum technology strategy must include, but is  
17 not limited to:

18 (a) An overview of the current state of the quantum technology  
19 industry, its projected growth over the next decade, and specific  
20 strategies that would lead to increased jobs and capital investments  
21 in the state;

22 (b) Identification of projects and programs that will most  
23 quickly improve the economic vitality of the quantum technology  
24 industry;

25 (c) Identification of the types of public-private partnerships  
26 involving government, academia, private investors, and a regional  
27 organization of companies, universities, national labs, and business  
28 organizations that will provide critical funding and partnerships to  
29 accelerate the quantum technology industry;

30 (d) Analysis of state policies that will provide opportunities to  
31 grow the quantum technology industry, including consideration of  
32 regulatory reforms, tax and financial supports, and education and  
33 workforce programs;

34 (e) Exploration of quantum application research in specific  
35 industry areas, such as nuclear physics, energy and renewables,  
36 materials science, and chemistry;

37 (f) Identification of research and development opportunities with  
38 Washington-based research institutions including public universities,  
39 a regional organization of companies, universities, national labs,

1 and business organizations, and the Pacific Northwest national  
2 laboratory;

3 (g) Partnerships with industry and a regional organization of  
4 companies, universities, national labs, and business organizations to  
5 develop plans to attract federal investment; and

6 (h) Identification of the anticipated impacts of a robust quantum  
7 technology industry in the state, including overall economic  
8 opportunities and workforce development.

9 (3) The department of commerce may contract with a Washington  
10 state-based quantum technology business or a regional organization of  
11 companies, universities, national labs, and business organizations to  
12 assist with the obligations under this section.

13 (4) Consistent with the department of commerce's authority under  
14 RCW 43.330.040, the department of commerce shall seek gifts, grants,  
15 and other contributions from nonstate sources to carry out the  
16 purposes of this section.

17 (5) The department of commerce shall submit the state quantum  
18 technology strategy to the legislature by June 30, 2027, in  
19 compliance with RCW 43.01.036.

20 (6) This section expires August 1, 2027.

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