
SENATE BILL 5598

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Bluechel, Skratek and Thorsness.

Read first time February 11, 1991. Referred to Committee on
Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to international relations and protocol; amending
2 RCW 43.31.145; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; creating new
3 sections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is in the
6 public interest to create an office of international relations and
7 protocol in order to: Make international relations and protocol a more
8 broadly focused and functional part of state government; develop and
9 promote state policies that increase international literacy and cross-
10 cultural understanding among Washington state's citizens; expand
11 Washington state's international cooperation role in such areas as the
12 environment, education, science, and culture; establish coordinated
13 methods for responding to the increasing number of inquiries by foreign
14 governments and institutions seeking cooperative activities within
15 Washington state; provide leadership in state government on

1 international relations and assistance to the legislature and state
2 elected officials on international issues affecting the state; assist
3 with multistate international efforts; and coordinate and improve
4 communication and resource sharing among various state offices,
5 agencies, and educational institutions with international programs.

6 It is the purpose of this chapter to bring these functions together
7 in a new office under the office of the governor in order to establish
8 a visible, coordinated, and comprehensive approach to international
9 relations and protocol.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of international relations
11 and protocol is created under the office of the governor. The office
12 shall serve as the state's official liaison and protocol office with
13 foreign governments. The governor shall appoint a director of the
14 office of international relations and protocol, who shall serve at the
15 pleasure of the governor. Because of the diplomatic character of this
16 office, the director and staff will be exempt from the provisions of
17 chapter 41.06 RCW. The director will be paid a salary to be fixed by
18 the governor in accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.03.040. The
19 director may hire such personnel as may be necessary for the general
20 administration of the office. To the extent permitted by law, state
21 agencies may temporarily loan staff to the office of international
22 relations and protocol to assist in carrying out the office's duties
23 and responsibilities under this chapter. An arrangement to temporarily
24 loan staff must have the approval of the staff members to be loaned and
25 the directors of the office and the agencies involved in the loan.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The office of international relations
27 and protocol shall:

1 (1) Advise and assist the governor, the legislature, and other
2 independently elected officials on international developments that may
3 affect the state.

4 (2) Serve as a resource and clearinghouse for information on
5 international activities within state government, including higher
6 education.

7 (3) Coordinate protocol for foreign dignitaries visiting the
8 governor, the legislature, the judiciary, and other state offices and
9 agencies.

10 (4) Advise and assist state government with its protocol needs.

11 (5) Coordinate the state's existing sister state relationships with
12 Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, and Sichuan Province, China. The office shall
13 assist with development of additional sister state relationships, as
14 appropriate, and coordinate with the Hyogo cultural center in Seattle,
15 Washington.

16 (6) Consult with and assist Washington state cities and counties in
17 the formation of sister cities or sister counties in other countries.

18 (7) Serve as principal liaison between the governor, the
19 legislature, and other offices of state government, and the Seattle
20 consular corps and diplomatic offices serving Washington state in San
21 Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

22 (8) Advise and assist the governor and legislature with their
23 participation in the Pacific Northwest economic community.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The office of international relations
25 and protocol may:

26 (1) Create temporary advisory committees as necessary to deal with
27 specific international issues. Advisory committee representation may
28 include external organizations such as the Seattle consular corps,
29 world affairs councils, public ports, world trade organizations,

1 private nonprofit organizations dealing with international education or
2 international environmental issues, organizations concerned with
3 international understanding, businesses with experience in
4 international relations, or other organizations deemed appropriate by
5 the director.

6 (2) Accept or request grants or gifts from citizens and other
7 private sources to be used to defray the costs of appropriate hosting
8 of foreign dignitaries, including appropriate gift-giving and
9 reciprocal gift-giving, or other activities of the office. The office
10 shall open and maintain a bank account into which it shall deposit all
11 money received under this subsection. Such money and the interest
12 accruing thereon shall not constitute public funds, shall be kept
13 segregated and apart from funds of the state, and shall not be subject
14 to appropriation or allotment by the state or subject to chapter 43.88
15 RCW.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** There is established internal to state
17 government an international relations advisory committee to the office
18 of international relations and protocol. The purpose of the advisory
19 committee is to advise the office of international relations and
20 protocol on matters pertaining to state and local government, including
21 state and local government policy and resource coordination, and to
22 otherwise facilitate the operation of the office. The advisory
23 committee shall consist of members appointed by the governor to include
24 representation of the following interests: Trade, tourism, economic
25 development, education, agriculture, fisheries, wildlife, and
26 environmental interests. At least one member shall be a state-wide
27 elected official from the executive branch other than the governor; one
28 member shall represent the state judiciary; one member shall represent
29 the governor; two members shall be members of the Washington state

1 house of representatives; and two members shall be members of the
2 Washington state senate. The advisory committee member representing
3 the governor shall chair the advisory committee. The governor may
4 appoint representatives of cities, counties, and port districts.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
6 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

7 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.31.145 and 1985 c 466 s 18 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 The department is charged with the primary role within state
10 government for the establishment and operation of foreign offices
11 created for the purpose of promoting overseas trade and commerce.
12 (~~The department shall serve as the state's official liaison and~~
13 ~~protocol office with foreign governments.~~)

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** All powers, duties, and functions of the
15 department of trade and economic development pertaining to
16 international relations and protocol are transferred to the office of
17 international relations and protocol.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** All reports, documents, surveys, books,
19 records, files, papers, or written material in the possession of the
20 department of trade and economic development pertaining to the powers,
21 functions, and duties transferred shall be delivered to the custody of
22 the office of international relations and protocol. All cabinets,
23 furniture, office equipment, motor vehicles, and other tangible
24 property employed by the department of trade and economic development
25 in carrying out the powers, functions, and duties transferred shall be
26 made available to the office of international relations and protocol.

1 All funds, credits, or other assets held in connection with the powers,
2 functions, and duties transferred shall be assigned to the office of
3 international relations and protocol.

4 Any appropriations made to the department of trade and economic
5 development for carrying out the powers, functions, and duties
6 transferred shall, on the effective date of this section, be
7 transferred and credited to the office of international relations and
8 protocol.

9 Whenever any question arises as to the transfer of any personnel,
10 funds, books, documents, records, papers, files, equipment, or other
11 tangible property used or held in the exercise of the powers and the
12 performance of the duties and functions transferred, the director of
13 financial management shall make a determination as to the proper
14 allocation and certify the same to the state agencies concerned.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** All employees of the department of trade
16 and economic development engaged in performing the powers, functions,
17 and duties transferred are transferred to the jurisdiction of the
18 office of international relations and protocol.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** All rules and all pending business
20 before the department of trade and economic development pertaining to
21 the powers, functions, and duties transferred shall be continued and
22 acted upon by the office of international relations and protocol. All
23 existing contracts and obligations shall remain in full force and shall
24 be performed by the office of international relations and protocol.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The transfer of the powers, duties,
26 functions, and personnel of the department of trade and economic

1 development shall not affect the validity of any act performed prior to
2 the effective date of this section.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** If apportionments of budgeted funds are
4 required because of the transfers directed by sections 9 through 12 of
5 this act, the director of financial management shall certify the
6 apportionments to the agencies affected, the state auditor, and the
7 state treasurer. Each of these shall make the appropriate transfer and
8 adjustments in funds and appropriation accounts and equipment records
9 in accordance with the certification.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Nothing contained in sections 8 through
11 13 of this act may be construed to alter any existing collective
12 bargaining unit or the provisions of any existing collective bargaining
13 agreement until the agreement has expired or until the bargaining unit
14 has been modified by action of the personnel board as provided by law.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** This act is necessary for the immediate
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
17 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
18 effect July 1, 1991.