
HOUSE BILL 1888

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Van Luven, Voloria, Dunn, McDonald, Alexander, Ballasiotes, Sheldon, Morris, Mason, Kastama, Wensman, Wolfe, Doumit, Hatfield, Thompson, Butler, Chandler, Kessler, Dickerson, Constantine, Ogden, Conway, Costa, Cole and O'Brien

Read first time 02/12/97. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the executive-legislative task force on
2 international trade; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that international
6 trade is vital to the economy of the state of Washington. The state of
7 Washington is the fifth largest exporting state in the United States,
8 after California, Texas, New York, and Michigan respectively.

9 The legislature further finds that this state's international
10 business relationships are comprised of three interrelated categories:
11 Two-way trade, investment, and tourism. In 1994, Washington's two-way
12 trade totaled \$75.4 billion, with exports at \$32.3 billion of the
13 total. In 1992, investors from twenty foreign countries owned
14 approximately two hundred seventy-five businesses in the state of
15 Washington, employing an estimated twenty-five thousand three hundred
16 fifty-five persons state-wide. In 1994, approximately two million
17 three hundred thousand international travelers visited the state of
18 Washington. It is now estimated that one in five jobs in the state of
19 Washington is related to international trade.

1 The legislature further finds that international trade
2 opportunities are substantial in both established markets like Japan,
3 Taiwan, Canada, Mexico, and the European Union, and new, growing
4 markets like China, Southeast Asia, South Africa, and the Russian Far
5 East.

6 The legislature further finds that there is a need to evaluate the
7 state's role in the promotion of international trade. A unique
8 partnership between the public and private sector can attract increased
9 international trade opportunities and encourage investment in the state
10 of Washington.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is created the executive-
12 legislative task force on international trade to consist of nineteen
13 members.

14 (a) The task force shall consist of the following members:

15 (i) The governor, who shall serve as chair;

16 (ii) Two representatives from the house of representatives,
17 appointed by the speaker of the house, one from each political party;

18 (iii) Two representatives from the senate, appointed by the
19 president of the senate, one from each political party;

20 (iv) Four representatives of businesses involved in international
21 trade, one representative shall be from a business with less than fifty
22 employees, one representative shall be from businesses with less than
23 five hundred employees, and two representatives shall be from
24 businesses with more than five hundred employees;

25 (v) Three representatives of labor;

26 (vi) Two representatives of the Washington public ports
27 association, one representative shall be from a port that is located
28 east of the crest of the Cascade mountains;

29 (vii) Two representatives of local economic development
30 organizations, one representative shall be from an organization that is
31 located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains; and

32 (viii) One representative at large.

33 (b) The following two members shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting
34 members:

35 (i) The director of the department of community, trade, and
36 economic development; and

37 (ii) The director of the Washington state department of
38 agriculture.

1 (2) The governor shall appoint all nonlegislative members to the
2 executive-legislative task force on international trade. The chair of
3 the committee on trade and economic development of the house of
4 representatives shall serve as vice-chair of the executive-legislative
5 task force on international trade. The nonlegislative members of the
6 executive-legislative task force on international trade shall serve
7 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as
8 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Legislative members of the
9 executive-legislative task force on international trade shall be
10 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 44.04.120.

11 (3) The executive-legislative task force on international trade
12 shall meet regularly and may appoint technical advisory committees,
13 which may include members of the executive-legislative task force on
14 international trade, as needed to address specific issues and concerns.

15 (4) The department of community, trade, and economic development,
16 in conjunction with the Washington state department of agriculture and
17 the legislature, shall supply such information and assistance as is
18 deemed necessary for the executive-legislative task force on
19 international trade to carry out its duties under section 3 of this
20 act.

21 (5) The office of the governor and the legislature shall provide
22 administrative and clerical assistance to the executive-legislative
23 task force on international trade.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The executive-legislative task force on
25 international trade shall:

26 (1) Review existing state programs and incentives designed to
27 encourage international trade and domestic trade opportunities;

28 (2) Review the existing state organizational structure for
29 international trade and trade-related functions;

30 (3) Review international trade promotion programs, organizational
31 structures, and efforts in selected states and countries;

32 (4) Make recommendations on the state's international trade and
33 trade-related functions including, but not limited to:

34 (a) The role of the state in promoting international trade;

35 (b) The appropriate organizational structure of the state's
36 international trade and trade-related programs and incentives;

37 (c) The role of government and the private sector in promoting
38 international trade;

1 (d) The role of the state's foreign trade offices in international
2 trade;

3 (e) The role of the legislature in international trade;

4 (f) The need for a comprehensive and coordinated state
5 international trade policy; and

6 (g) Other issues the task force deems appropriate; and

7 (5) Prepare and submit to the governor and the appropriate policy
8 committees of the house of representatives and the senate, by January
9 30, 1998, a report detailing its findings and recommendations regarding
10 specific programs, organizational, legislative, and funding issues, and
11 any other recommendations it deems appropriate.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The executive-legislative task force on
13 international trade may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from
14 public and private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or
15 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the executive-
16 legislative task force on international trade and spend gifts, grants,
17 or endowments or income from the public or private sources according to
18 their terms, unless the receipt of the gifts, grants, or endowments
19 violates RCW 42.17.710.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires March 1, 1998.

--- END ---