

2 **SHB 2460** - S COMM

3 By Committee on Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions

4 OUT OF ORDER 3/8/00

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

8 (a) There are geographic areas within communities that are
9 characterized by a lack of employment opportunities, an average income
10 level that is below the median income level for the surrounding
11 community, a lack of affordable housing, deteriorating infrastructure,
12 and a lack of facilities for community services, job training, and
13 education;

14 (b) Strategies to encourage reinvestment in these areas by
15 assisting local businesses to become stronger and area residents to
16 gain economic power involve a variety of activities and partnerships;

17 (c) Reinvestment in these areas cannot be accomplished with only
18 governmental resources and require a comprehensive approach that
19 integrates various incentives, programs, and initiatives to meet the
20 economic, physical, and social needs of the area;

21 (d) Successful reinvestment depends on a local government's ability
22 to coordinate public resources in a cohesive, comprehensive strategy
23 that is designed to leverage long-term private investment in an area;

24 (e) Reinvestment can strengthen the overall tax base through
25 increased tax revenue from expanded and new business activities and
26 physical property improvement;

27 (f) Local governments, in cooperation with area residents, can
28 provide leadership as well as planning and coordination of resources
29 and necessary supportive services to address reinvestment in the area;
30 and

31 (g) It is in the public interest to adopt a targeted approach to
32 revitalization and enlist the resources of all levels of government,
33 the private sector, community-based organizations, and community
34 residents to revitalize an area.

35 (2) The legislature declares that the purposes of the community
36 empowerment zone act are to:

1 (a) Encourage reinvestment through strong partnerships and
2 cooperation between all levels of government, community-based
3 organizations, area residents, and the private sector;

4 (b) Involve the private sector and stimulate private reinvestment
5 through the judicious use of public resources;

6 (c) Target governmental resources to those areas of greatest need;
7 and

8 (d) Include all levels of government, community individuals,
9 organizations, and the private sector in the policy-making process.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

12 (1) "Area" means a geographic area within a local government that
13 is described by a close perimeter boundary.

14 (2) "Community empowerment zone" means an area meeting the
15 requirements of RCW 43.63A.700 (as recodified by this act) and
16 officially designated by the director.

17 (3) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
18 economic development.

19 (4) "Director" means the director of the department of community,
20 trade, and economic development.

21 (5) "Local government" means a city, code city, town, or county.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.63A.700 and 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 702 are each amended
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) The department, in cooperation with the department of revenue,
25 the employment security department, and the office of financial
26 management, ~~((shall))~~ may approve applications submitted by local
27 governments for an area's designation as a community empowerment zone
28 under this ~~((section))~~ chapter. The application for designation shall
29 be in the form and manner and contain such information as the
30 department may prescribe, provided that the application ~~((for~~
31 designation)) shall:

32 (a) Contain information sufficient for the director to determine if
33 the criteria established in RCW 43.63A.710 (as recodified by this act)
34 have been met~~((-))~~i

35 (b) Be submitted on behalf of the local government by its chief
36 elected official, or, if none, by the governing body of the local
37 government~~((-))~~i

1 (c) Contain a five-year community empowerment plan that ((describes
2 the proposed designated community empowerment zone's community
3 development needs and present a strategy for meeting those needs. The
4 plan shall address the following categories: Housing needs; public
5 infrastructure needs, such as transportation, water, sanitation,
6 energy, and drainage/flood control; other public facilities needs, such
7 as neighborhood facilities or facilities for provision of health,
8 education, recreation, public safety, or other services; community
9 economic development needs, such as commercial/industrial
10 revitalization, job creation and retention considering the unemployment
11 and underemployment of area residents, accessibility to financial
12 resources by area residents and businesses, investment within the area,
13 or other related components of community economic development; and
14 social service needs.

15 The local government is required to provide a description of its
16 strategy for meeting the needs identified in this subsection (1)(c).
17 As part of the strategy, the local government is required to identify
18 the needs for which specific plans are currently in place and the
19 source of funds expected to be used. For the balance of the area's
20 needs, the local government must identify the source of funds expected
21 to become available during the next two-year period and actions the
22 local government will take to acquire those funds.)) meets the
23 requirements of section 5 of this act; and

24 (d) Certify that ((neighborhood)) area residents were given the
25 opportunity to participate in the development of the five-year
26 community empowerment strategy required under ((c) of this
27 subsection)) section 5 of this act.

28 (2) No local government shall submit more than two
29 ((neighborhoods)) areas to the department for possible designation as
30 a ((designated)) community empowerment zone under this ((section))
31 chapter.

32 (3)(a) ((Within ninety days after January 1, 1994,)) The director
33 may designate up to six ((designated)) community empowerment zones,
34 state-wide, from among the applications ((eligible)) submitted for
35 designation as a ((designated)) community empowerment zone.

36 (b) The director shall make determinations of designated community
37 empowerment zones on the basis of the following factors:

1 (i) The strength and quality of the local government commitments to
2 meet the needs identified in the five-year community empowerment plan
3 required under ~~((this))~~ section 5 of this act.

4 (ii) The level of private ~~((commitments by private entities))~~
5 sector commitment of additional resources and contribution to the
6 ~~((designated))~~ community empowerment zone.

7 (iii) The potential for revitalization of the area as a result of
8 designation as a ~~((designated))~~ community empowerment zone.

9 (iv) Other factors the director deems necessary.

10 (c) The determination of the director as to the areas designated as
11 community empowerment zones shall be final.

12 (4) Except as provided in section 6 of this act, an area that was
13 designated a community empowerment zone before January 1, 1996, under
14 this section, automatically and without additional action by the local
15 government continues its designation under this chapter.

16 (5) The department may not designate additional community
17 empowerment zones after January 1, 2004, but may amend or rescind
18 designation of community empowerment zones in accordance with section
19 6 of this act.

20 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.63A.710 and 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 703 are each amended
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) The director may not designate an area as a ~~((designated))~~
23 community empowerment zone unless that area meets the following
24 requirements:

25 (a) The area must be designated by the legislative authority of the
26 local government as an area to receive federal, state, and local
27 assistance designed to increase economic, physical, or social activity
28 in the area;

29 (b) The area must have at least fifty-one percent of the households
30 in the area with incomes at or below eighty percent of the county's
31 median income, adjusted for household size;

32 (c) The average unemployment rate for the area, for the most recent
33 twelve-month period for which data is available must be at least one
34 hundred twenty percent of the average unemployment rate of the county;
35 and

36 (d) A five-year community empowerment plan for the area that meets
37 the requirements of ~~((RCW 43.63A.700(1)(c) and as further defined by~~
38 ~~the director))~~ section 5 of this act must be adopted.

1 (2) The director may establish, by rule, such other requirements as
2 the director may reasonably determine necessary and appropriate to
3 assure that the purposes of this (~~section~~) chapter are satisfied.

4 (3) In determining if an area meets the requirements of this
5 section, the director may consider data provided by the United States
6 bureau of the census from the most recent census or any other reliable
7 data that the director determines to be acceptable for the purposes for
8 which the data is used.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The five-year community empowerment plan
10 required under RCW 43.63A.700 (as recodified by this act) shall contain
11 information that describes the community development needs of the
12 proposed community empowerment zone and present a strategy for meeting
13 those needs. The plan shall address the following categories:

14 (a) Housing needs for all economic segments of the proposed
15 community empowerment zone;

16 (b) Public infrastructure needs, such as transportation, water,
17 sanitation, energy, and drainage and flood control;

18 (c) Other public facilities needs, such as neighborhood facilities
19 or facilities for the provision of health, education, recreation,
20 public safety, and other services;

21 (d) Community economic development needs, such as commercial and
22 industrial revitalization, job creation and retention considering the
23 unemployment and underemployment of area residents, accessibility to
24 financial resources by area residents and businesses, investment within
25 the area, and other related components of community economic
26 development; and

27 (e) Social service needs of residents in the proposed community
28 empowerment zone.

29 (2) The local government must provide a description of its strategy
30 for meeting the needs identified in subsection (1) of this section. As
31 part of the community empowerment zone strategy, the local government
32 must identify the needs for which specific plans are currently in place
33 and the source of funds expected to be used. For the balance of the
34 area's needs, the local government must identify the source of funds
35 expected to become available during the next two-year period and
36 actions the local government will take to acquire those funds.

37 (3) The local government must submit an annual progress report to
38 the department that details the extent to which the local government is

1 working to meet the needs identified in the five-year community
2 empowerment plan. If applicable, the progress report must also contain
3 a discussion on the impediments to meeting the needs outlined in the
4 five-year community empowerment plan. The department must determine
5 the date the annual progress reports are due from each local
6 government.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The terms or conditions of a community
8 empowerment zone approved under this chapter may be amended to:

9 (a) Alter the boundaries of the community empowerment zone; or

10 (b) Terminate the designation of a community empowerment zone.

11 (2)(a) A request for an amendment under subsection (1)(a) of this
12 section may not be in effect until the department issues an amended
13 designation for the community empowerment zone that approves the
14 requested amendment. The local government must promptly file with the
15 department a request for approval that contains information the
16 department deems necessary to evaluate the proposed changes and its
17 impact on the area's designation as a community empowerment zone under
18 RCW 43.63A.710 (as recodified by this act). The local government must
19 hold at least two public hearings on the proposed changes and include
20 the information in its request for an amendment to its community
21 empowerment zone.

22 (b) The department shall approve or disapprove a proposed amendment
23 to a community empowerment zone within sixty days of its receipt of a
24 request under subsection (1)(a) of this section. The department may
25 not approve changes to a community empowerment zone that are not in
26 conformity with this chapter.

27 (3)(a) The termination of an area's designation as a community
28 empowerment zone under subsection (1)(b) of this section is not
29 effective until the department issues a finding stating the reasons for
30 the termination, which may include lack of commitment of resources to
31 activities in the community empowerment zone by the public, private,
32 and community-based sectors. The local government may file an appeal
33 to the department's findings within sixty days of the notice to
34 terminate the area's designation. The department must notify the local
35 government of the results within thirty days of the filing of the
36 appeal.

37 (b) A termination of an area's designation as a community
38 empowerment zone has no effect on benefits previously extended to

1 individual businesses. The local government may not commit benefits to
2 a business after the effective date of the termination of an area's
3 designation as a community empowerment zone.

4 (4) The department may request applications from local governments
5 for designation as community empowerment zones under this chapter as a
6 result of a termination of an area's designation as a community
7 empowerment zone under this section.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The department must administer this chapter
9 and has the following powers and duties:

10 (1) To monitor the implementation of chapter . . . , Laws of 2000
11 (this act) and submit reports evaluating the effectiveness of the
12 program and any suggestions for legislative changes to the governor and
13 legislature by December 1, 2000;

14 (2) To develop evaluation and performance measures for local
15 governments to measure the effectiveness of the program at the local
16 level on meeting the objectives of this chapter;

17 (3) To provide information and appropriate assistance to persons
18 desiring to locate and operate a business in a community empowerment
19 zone;

20 (4) To work with appropriate state agencies to coordinate the
21 delivery of programs, including but not limited to housing, community
22 and economic development, small business assistance, social service,
23 and employment and training programs which are carried on in a
24 community empowerment zone; and

25 (5) To develop rules necessary for the administration of this
26 chapter.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The administration of a community
28 empowerment zone is under the jurisdiction of the local government.
29 Each local government must, by ordinance, designate a community
30 empowerment zone administrator for the area designated as a community
31 empowerment zone that is within its jurisdiction. A community
32 empowerment zone administrator must be an officer or employee of the
33 local government. The community empowerment zone administrator is the
34 liaison between the local government, the department, the business
35 community, and labor and community-based organizations within the
36 community empowerment zone.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
2 Washington community empowerment zone act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1, 2, and 5 through 9 of this act
4 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** RCW 43.63A.700 and 43.63A.710, as amended
6 by this act, are each recodified as sections in chapter 43.-- RCW
7 (sections 1, 2, and 5 through 9 of this act).

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** If any part of this act is found to be in
9 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
10 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
11 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
12 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
13 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to
14 the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal
15 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal
16 funds by the state.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** If specific funding for the purposes of
18 sections 1 through 12 of this act, referencing this act by bill or
19 chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2000, in the omnibus
20 appropriations act, this act is null and void.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** (1) The legislature finds that establishing
22 a clear state-wide strategy for successful economic development will
23 best prepare the state of Washington to respond to the challenges and
24 take advantage of future economic cycles. The legislature further
25 finds that without a state-wide economic development plan the state's
26 budget and election cycles make it difficult for government to adhere
27 to consistent, long-term economic development priorities that are
28 essential to successful, enhanced economic development. The
29 legislature further finds that the purpose of economic development is
30 to increase the standard of living and enhance the quality of life of
31 the citizens of this state.

32 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that a strategic state-wide
33 economic development plan be created that reflects the following goals
34 and objectives:

1 (a) To create and maintain jobs and income that would not otherwise
2 be created or maintained, and to increase wealth rather than to
3 redistribute it;

4 (b) To add value to private sector economic activity; and

5 (c) To assist businesses in developing their business strategies,
6 increasing the skills of their workers and managers, applying advanced
7 technologies, developing infrastructure, accessing capital, and
8 enhancing social capital.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** For the purposes of this chapter
10 "department" means the department of community, trade, and economic
11 development, or its successor agency or agencies. "The plan" or "state
12 plan" means a state-wide economic development plan, as developed under
13 sections 16 and 17 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** (1) The legislative committee on economic
15 development shall take the lead responsibility for creating a
16 state-wide strategic plan for economic development in conjunction with
17 the department, and an advisory group of business, labor, and other
18 interests. The advisory group shall be appointed by the lieutenant
19 governor and shall consist of no more than twelve members.

20 (2) In preparing the state plan, the legislative committee on
21 economic development and the department shall recognize:

22 (a) Regional economic, political, and cultural differences, and
23 acknowledge the special challenges facing urban and rural communities;
24 and

25 (b) Special contributions of, and challenges facing, women and
26 minority-owned businesses.

27 (3) The plan should set priorities and concentrate resources on
28 those priorities.

29 (4) The plan should include specific implementation steps and
30 establish a process for institutionalizing economic development
31 planning.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** The legislative committee on economic
33 development and the department shall develop and include the following
34 elements in the plan:

35 (1) New strategies that seek to improve the overall competitiveness
36 of groups of similar businesses, usually termed clusters, and entire

1 industries or sectors rather than traditional strategies that focus on
2 individualized assistance. These strategies should foster interfirm
3 cooperation and learning, technology adaptation, and work-based
4 learning to improve work force skills. Under these strategies the
5 state acts as a broker of available private and public development
6 resources, or contracts for such broker services;

7 (2) Direction to the department to develop programs consistent with
8 the state plan, and that are characterized by outcome-based performance
9 management systems and decentralized decision making;

10 (3) Direction to the department to assist local governments and
11 other interested parties in the creation of regional economic
12 development plans consistent with the state plan; and

13 (4) Direction to the department to develop a professional research
14 capacity to keep the state's trade assistance operation regularly
15 appraised of opportunities and updated on performance.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** The legislature recognizes the urgent need
17 for having a plan in place as soon as is reasonably possible. The
18 legislative committee on economic development and the department are
19 directed to immediately develop a work plan and take other steps
20 necessary to implement sections 14 through 17 of this act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** Sections 14 through 17 of this act
22 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

23 **Sec. 20.** RCW 43.330.070 and 1993 c 280 s 10 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) The department shall work closely with local communities to
26 increase their capacity to respond to economic, environmental, and
27 social problems and challenges. The department shall coordinate the
28 delivery of development services and technical assistance to local
29 communities or regional areas. It shall promote partnerships between
30 the public and private sectors and between state and local officials to
31 encourage appropriate economic growth and opportunity in communities
32 throughout the state, in particular strategies designed to encourage
33 economic growth and opportunities in community empowerment zones
34 designated under RCW 43.63A.700 (as recodified by this act). The
35 department shall promote appropriate local development by: Supporting
36 the ability of communities to develop and implement strategic

1 development plans; assisting businesses to start up, maintain, or
2 expand their operations; encouraging public infrastructure investment
3 and private and public capital investment in local communities;
4 supporting efforts to manage growth and provide affordable housing and
5 housing services; providing for the identification and preservation of
6 the state's historical and cultural resources; and expanding employment
7 opportunities.

8 (2) The department shall define a set of services including
9 training and technical assistance that it will make available to local
10 communities, community-based nonprofit organizations, regional areas,
11 industry clusters, or businesses. The department shall simplify access
12 to these programs by providing more centralized and user-friendly
13 information and referral. The department shall coordinate community
14 and economic development efforts to minimize program redundancy and
15 maximize accessibility. The department shall develop a set of criteria
16 for targeting services to local communities.

17 (3) The department shall develop a coordinated and systematic
18 approach to providing training to community-based nonprofit
19 organizations, local communities, industry clusters, and businesses.
20 The approach shall be designed to increase the economic and community
21 development skills available in local communities by providing training
22 and funding for training for local citizens, nonprofit organizations,
23 industry clusters, and businesses. The department shall emphasize
24 providing training in those communities most in need of state
25 assistance.

26 (4) As used in this section, "industry clusters" means a geographic
27 concentration of interdependent competitive firms that do business with
28 each other. Clusters also include firms that sell inside and outside
29 of the geographic region as well as support firms that supply raw
30 materials, components, and business services.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** The legislature finds that economic
32 development, work force training, international trade, tourism
33 development, housing assistance, assistance to local governments, and
34 other programs and services provided by the department of community,
35 trade, and economic development are vital to all regions of the state.
36 The legislature further finds that program development and service
37 delivery to the eastern region of the state could be significantly

1 enhanced by a continuous, full-time physical staff presence in that
2 region.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** For the purposes of sections 21 through 24
4 of this act:

5 (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
6 economic development, or its successor agency or agencies.

7 (2) "Director" means the director of the department.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 23.** In order to more effectively respond to the
9 needs of eastern Washington communities, the department shall, as soon
10 as practicable, establish a field office and a full-time staff presence
11 in eastern Washington. If practicable, the office shall be colocated
12 with one or more existing state agencies in the Tri-Cities area to
13 facilitate the urgent economic development needs of southeastern
14 Washington. This office shall be staffed by the director in the most
15 efficient manner that is likely to provide improved service to eastern
16 Washington communities.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 24.** Program activities and priorities for this
18 office serving eastern Washington shall be determined by the director,
19 in consultation with local government officials, business, labor, and
20 educational advisors from the region.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 25.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington's
22 quality of life, standard of living, and social and economic
23 opportunity all depend on the vitality of the state's economy. The
24 legislature further finds that economic development tries to reinforce
25 the natural way by which strong foundations in the areas of human
26 resources, capital resources, technology, tax and regulatory, advanced
27 physical infrastructure, information and communication infrastructure,
28 and quality of life strengthen the economy. The legislature further
29 finds that the strength and vitality of the state's economy depends on
30 the competitiveness of the state's industry clusters. The legislature
31 further finds industry clusters can become a powerful magnet for
32 businesses to locate in an area and create a spawning ground for start-
33 up companies. The legislature further finds that industry clusters
34 create large, diverse pools of experienced workers; attract suppliers
35 who tend to congregate in their vicinity for increased efficiency; and

1 foster a competitive spirit that stimulates growth and innovative
2 strategic alliances. The legislature further finds that the state must
3 first identify and understand the industry clusters before strategies
4 can be developed to enhance their competitive position in the world.

5 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to establish an industry
6 cluster-based approach to economic development as a component of a
7 state-wide strategy to address economic growth and quality of life
8 issues.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 26.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) The department of community, trade, and economic development,
12 or its successor agency, shall work with industry associations and
13 organizations to identify industry clusters on a regional and state-
14 wide basis. The industry clusters may include, but not be limited to
15 aerospace, agriculture, food processing, forest products, business
16 services, financial services, health and biomedical, software,
17 transportation and distribution, environmental technology, and
18 microelectronics.

19 (2) In the identification of industry clusters, the department's
20 activities may include, but are not limited to:

21 (a) Conducting focus group discussions, facilitating meetings, and
22 conducting studies to identify industry clusters, members of an
23 industry cluster, the current state of the industry cluster, and issues
24 of common concern of the industry cluster;

25 (b) Supporting the formation of industry cluster associations,
26 publication of cluster association directories, and related efforts to
27 encourage the entry of new firms into the industry cluster; and

28 (c) Providing methods for electronic communication and information
29 dissemination among firms within industry clusters.

30 (3) The department shall work with identified industry clusters,
31 private sector organizations, local governments, local economic
32 development organizations, and higher education and training
33 institutions to assist in the development of strategies designed to
34 strengthen the competitiveness of the state's industry clusters. The
35 department shall, on a continuing basis, evaluate effectiveness of the
36 services provided to industry clusters using information gathered at
37 the regional and state-wide level.

1 (4) As used in this section, "industry cluster" means a geographic
2 concentration of interdependent competitive firms that do business with
3 each other. Clusters also include firms that sell inside and outside
4 of the geographic region as well as support firms that supply raw
5 materials, components, and business services.

6 **Sec. 27.** RCW 43.330.090 and 1998 c 245 s 85 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall work with private sector organizations,
9 industry clusters, local governments, local economic development
10 organizations, and higher education and training institutions to assist
11 in the development of strategies to diversify the economy, facilitate
12 technology transfer and diffusion, and increase value-added production
13 by focusing on targeted sectors. The targeted sectors may include, but
14 are not limited to, software, forest products, biotechnology,
15 environmental industries, recycling markets and waste reduction,
16 aerospace, food processing, tourism, film and video, microelectronics,
17 new materials, robotics, and machine tools. The department shall, on
18 a continuing basis, evaluate the potential return to the state from
19 devoting additional resources to a targeted sector's approach to
20 economic development and including additional sectors in its efforts.
21 The department shall use information gathered in each service delivery
22 region in formulating its sectoral strategies and in designating new
23 targeted sectors.

24 (2) The department shall ensure that the state continues to pursue
25 a coordinated program to expand the tourism industry throughout the
26 state in cooperation with the public and private tourism development
27 organizations. The department shall work to provide a balance of
28 tourism activities throughout the state and during different seasons of
29 the year. In addition, the department shall promote, market, and
30 encourage growth in the production of films and videos, as well as
31 television commercials within the state; to this end the department is
32 directed to assist in the location of a film and video production
33 studio within the state.

34 (3) In assisting in the development of a targeted sector, the
35 department's activities may include, but are not limited to:

36 (a) Conducting focus group discussions, facilitating meetings, and
37 conducting studies to identify members of the sector, appraise the

1 current state of the sector, and identify issues of common concern
2 within the sector;

3 (b) Supporting the formation of industry associations, publications
4 of association directories, and related efforts to create or expand the
5 activities or industry associations;

6 (c) Assisting in the formation of flexible networks by providing
7 (i) agency employees or private sector consultants trained to act as
8 flexible network brokers and (ii) funding for potential flexible
9 network participants for the purpose of organizing or implementing a
10 flexible network;

11 (d) Helping establish research consortia;

12 (e) Facilitating joint training and education programs;

13 (f) Promoting cooperative market development activities;

14 (g) Analyzing the need, feasibility, and cost of establishing
15 product certification and testing facilities and services; and

16 (h) Providing for methods of electronic communication and
17 information dissemination among firms and groups of firms to facilitate
18 network or industry cluster activity.

19 (4) As used in this section, "industry cluster" has the same
20 meaning as in section 26 of this act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 28.** If any provision of this act or its
22 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
23 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
24 persons or circumstances is not affected."

25 **SHB 2460** - S COMM

26 By Committee on Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions

27 OUT OF ORDER 3/8/00

28 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "zones;" strike the remainder
29 of the title and insert "amending RCW 43.63A.700, 43.63A.710,
30 43.330.070, and 43.330.090; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW;
31 adding new chapters to Title 43 RCW; creating new sections; and
32 recodifying RCW 43.63A.700 and 43.63A.710."

--- END ---