
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6540

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions (originally sponsored by Senators Shin, Prentice, Hale, Jacobsen, Gardner, Heavey, B. Sheldon, Rasmussen, Oke, Costa, Winsley and Kohl-Welles; by request of Lieutenant Governor)

Read first time 02/04/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to the development of a state-wide strategic plan
2 for economic development; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that establishing
6 a clear state-wide strategy for successful economic development will
7 best prepare the state of Washington to respond to the challenges and
8 take advantage of future economic cycles. The legislature further
9 finds that without a state-wide economic development plan the state's
10 budget and election cycles make it difficult for government to adhere
11 to consistent, long-term economic development priorities that are
12 essential to successful, enhanced economic development. The
13 legislature further finds that the purpose of economic development is
14 to increase the standard of living and enhance the quality of life of
15 the citizens of this state.

16 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that a strategic state-wide
17 economic development plan be created that reflects the following goals
18 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. 2.** 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 3 and 4 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (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. 4.** 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. 5.** 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 this act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
22 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

--- END ---