

---

**SENATE BILL 6540**

---

**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**2000 Regular Session**

**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 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Commerce, Trade, Housing & Financial Institutions.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The legislative committee on economic  
32 development and the department shall develop and include the following  
33 elements in the plan:

34 (1) New strategies that seek to improve the overall competitiveness  
35 of groups of similar businesses, usually termed clusters, and entire  
36 industries or sectors rather than traditional strategies that focus on

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

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

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

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

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The legislature recognizes the urgent need  
16 for having a plan in place as soon as is reasonably possible. The  
17 legislative committee on economic development and the department are  
18 directed to immediately develop a work plan and take other steps  
19 necessary to implement this act.

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

--- END ---