
**Trade & Economic Development
Committee**

HB 3086

Brief Description: Creating a maritime office in the department of community, trade, and economic development.

Sponsors: Representatives Blake, Veloria and Chase.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Washington Maritime Office in the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

Hearing Date: 2/3/04

Staff: Tracey Taylor (786-7196).

Background:

At least one in four jobs in Washington state is linked to international trade. Washington handles more than \$103 billion in trade a year, including \$36 billion in state-originated exports. Many of Washington's industries depend on the maritime industry to get products and produce to market.

The region's maritime operations are centered along two waterways: the Puget Sound and the Columbia–Snake River system. The Port of Grays Harbor also provides direct access to Washington's Central Pacific Coast. Generally, Puget Sound port activities are dominated by container imports and exports, while the Columbia–Snake River system is dominated by bulk cargo exports.

More than two-thirds of Washington state imports are destined for locations elsewhere in the U. S. Thus, many of Washington's key ports are discretionary and compete with other west coast ports for business.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development is directed to create the Washington Maritime Office (WMO). The WMO shall provide the maritime industry with enhanced knowledge, resources and advocacy by working with various stakeholders including federal and state agencies, local governments, maritime businesses and maritime organizations. Together with the stakeholders, the WMO should identify potential trading partners, identify strategic infrastructure priorities and needs, attract key freight services, measure performance and

identify workforce needs. The WMO will collect and distribute maritime trade and industry data in an annual report.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 27, 2004.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.