
HOUSE BILL 1173

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Veloria, Conway and Chase

Read first time 01/20/2003. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the office of the Washington state trade
2 representative; amending RCW 43.332.005 and 43.332.010; and adding a
3 new section to chapter 43.332 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.332.005 and 1995 c 350 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that:

8 (a) The expansion of international trade is vital to the overall
9 growth of Washington's economy;

10 (b) On a per capita basis, Washington state is the most
11 international trade dependent state in the nation;

12 (c) The North American free trade agreement (NAFTA) and the general
13 agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) highlight the increased
14 importance of international trade opportunities to the United States
15 and the state of Washington;

16 (d) The passage of NAFTA and GATT will have a major impact on the
17 state's agriculture, aerospace, computer software, and textiles and
18 apparel sectors;

1 (e) There is a need to strengthen and coordinate the state's
2 activities in promoting and developing its agricultural, manufacturing,
3 and service industries overseas, especially for small and medium-sized
4 businesses, and minority and women-owned business enterprises; and

5 (f) The importance of having a coherent vision for advancing
6 Washington state's interest in the global economy has rarely been so
7 consequential as it is now.

8 (2) The legislature declares that the purpose of the office of the
9 Washington state trade representative is to:

10 (a) Strengthen and expand the state's activities in marketing its
11 goods and services overseas;

12 (b) Review and analyze proposed international trade agreements to
13 assess their impact on goods and services produced by Washington
14 businesses; and

15 (c) Inform the legislature about ongoing trade negotiations, trade
16 development, and the possible impacts on Washington's economy.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.332.010 and 1995 c 350 s 2 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 (1) The office of the Washington state trade representative is
20 created (~~under~~) in the office of the governor. The office shall
21 serve as the state's official liaison with foreign governments on trade
22 matters.

23 ~~((The office of the Washington state trade representative may~~
24 ~~accept or request grants or gifts from citizens and other private~~
25 ~~sources to be used to defray the costs of appropriate hosting of~~
26 ~~foreign dignitaries, including appropriate gift giving and reciprocal~~
27 ~~gift giving, or other activities of the office. The office shall open~~
28 ~~and maintain a bank account into which it shall deposit all money~~
29 ~~received under this section. Such money and the interest accruing~~
30 ~~thereon shall not constitute public funds, shall be kept segregated and~~
31 ~~apart from funds of the state, and shall not be subject to~~
32 ~~appropriation or allotment by the state or subject to chapter 43.88~~
33 ~~RCW.)) (2) The office shall:~~

34 (a) Review and analyze proposed and enacted international trade
35 agreements and provide an assessment of the impact of the proposed or
36 enacted agreement on Washington's businesses and firms;

1 (b) Provide input to the office of the United States trade
2 representative in the development of international trade, commodity,
3 and direct investment policies that reflect the concerns of the state
4 of Washington;

5 (c) Serve as liaison to the legislature on matters of trade policy
6 oversight including, but not limited to, updates to the legislature
7 regarding the status of trade negotiations, trade litigation, and the
8 impacts of trade policy on Washington state businesses;

9 (d) Work with the international trade division of the department of
10 community, trade, and economic development and the international
11 marketing program of the Washington state department of agriculture to
12 develop a statewide strategy designed to increase the export of
13 Washington goods and services, particularly goods and services from
14 small and medium-sized businesses; and

15 (e) Conduct other activities the governor deems necessary to
16 promote international trade and foreign investment within the state.

17 (3) The office shall prepare and submit an annual report on its
18 activities under subsection (2) of this section to the governor and
19 appropriate committees of the legislature.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.332 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 The office of the Washington state trade representative may accept
23 or request grants or gifts from citizens and other private sources to
24 be used to defray the costs of appropriate hosting of foreign
25 dignitaries, including appropriate gift-giving and reciprocal gift-
26 giving, or other activities of the office. The office shall open and
27 maintain a bank account into which it shall deposit all money received
28 under this section. Such money and the interest accruing thereon shall
29 not constitute public funds, shall be kept segregated and apart from
30 funds of the state, and shall not be subject to appropriation or
31 allotment by the state or subject to chapter 43.88 RCW.

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