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HOUSE BILL 2164

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway, Wood and Kenney

Read first time 02/28/2003. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington manufacturing advisory  
2 partnership; adding a new section to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating a  
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that manufacturing  
6 remains a vital component of the Washington economy. The manufacturing  
7 sector accounts for thirteen percent of all employment in Washington,  
8 provides sixteen percent of total wages in the state, and supports  
9 high-wage jobs. The average wage in manufacturing is routinely the  
10 highest of all major industry groups. Manufacturing also has a  
11 significant multiplier effect; every manufacturing job adds another one  
12 and one-half to three jobs to the region's economy.

13 The legislature also recognizes that manufacturing has long been  
14 subject to the ups and downs of market cycles, and the pressures of an  
15 increasingly competitive global market. In addition, manufacturing in  
16 Washington has suffered the effects of national and state recessions,  
17 and soft global markets for specific products such as aircraft and  
18 electronics. In recent years, manufacturing employment has declined.

1 The consequence of this downward trend on the Washington economy is  
2 significant by reducing personal income and local tax revenues.

3 For these reasons, the legislature declares that new efforts aimed  
4 at revitalizing the manufacturing sector are essential. Therefore, a  
5 collaborative partnership of stakeholders should be convened to direct  
6 research and advise stakeholders on how best to revitalize the  
7 manufacturing sector.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW  
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) An advisory partnership on the Washington manufacturing sector  
11 force is established. The partnership shall consist of eight members:  
12 One member from each caucus of the house of representatives, each  
13 member being a member of the house of representatives commerce and  
14 labor committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
15 representatives; one member from each caucus of the senate, each member  
16 being a member of the senate commerce and trade committee, appointed by  
17 the president of the senate; two members representing labor, appointed  
18 jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of  
19 representatives, from a list of names recommended by a statewide  
20 organization representing a cross-section and majority of organized  
21 labor in the state; two members representing business, appointed  
22 jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of  
23 representatives, from a list of names recommended by a statewide  
24 organization of employers representing a majority of employers of the  
25 state.

26 (2) The manufacturing advisory partnership shall have access to and  
27 the assistance of the labor market and economic analysis branch of the  
28 employment security department and other state agencies as necessary to  
29 perform studies, develop recommendations, and report to the legislature  
30 concerning issues related to the manufacturing sector.

31 (3) The manufacturing advisory partnership shall study and make  
32 findings and recommendations related to the following aspects of  
33 Washington's manufacturing sector:

34 (a) The work force education and training needs of the  
35 manufacturing sector;

36 (b) The use of manufacturing skill standards to enhance work force  
37 development and human resources practices;

1       (c) The activities necessary to develop regionally strategic  
2 industry clusters; and

3       (d) Other issues identified by the partnership.

4       (4) The manufacturing advisory partnership shall report its  
5 findings and recommendations to the commerce and labor committee of the  
6 house of representatives and the commerce and trade committee of the  
7 senate by December 1 of each year.

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