
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3086

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Trade & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Blake, Veloria and Chase)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a maritime office in the department of
2 community, trade, and economic development; adding a new section to
3 chapter 43.63A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** An industry cluster is a geographical
6 grouping of companies, their suppliers, and the institutions that
7 support them. Industry clusters form around specific features of the
8 natural or built environment. Industry cluster development allows
9 Washington's diverse regions to leverage their assets to create greater
10 prosperity.

11 Washington's maritime industry cluster is a complex network that
12 includes ocean carriers, shippers, port facilities and operations,
13 regional and continental road and rail networks, barge operators,
14 trucking operators, boat and ship building and repair, cargo
15 trafficking and traffic management, internal and third-party freight
16 forwarding services, emerging inland distribution centers and the final
17 customers. Washington has a number of ports of all sizes and degrees
18 of utilization, including some of the busiest cargo ports in the United

1 States. Washington ports handle well in excess of one hundred billion
2 dollars in trade.

3 However, there is a great deal of competition from other ports for
4 much of the off-loading. The pressures on our maritime industry are
5 growing every day due to stiff market competition, new and emerging
6 ports, highway and rail infrastructure improvements in other areas, and
7 waterway and port security.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) If appropriated by the legislature, the department of
11 community, trade, and economic development shall use funding available
12 for qualified maritime industry consulting services, in consultation
13 with maritime industry representatives, to study and make
14 recommendations to establish and implement a Washington maritime
15 industry function at the department.

16 (2) Following the receipt of the report in subsection (1) of this
17 section, the department of community, trade, and economic development
18 shall develop the Washington maritime industry function, with a focus
19 on strengthening the maritime cluster in Washington.

20 (3) Following the development of the Washington maritime industry
21 function, the department of community, trade, and economic development
22 shall provide the maritime industry with enhanced knowledge, resources,
23 and advocacy, by working with federal and state agencies, local
24 governments, maritime businesses, and maritime organizations to:

- 25 (a) Bring potential trading and business partners together;
- 26 (b) Identify strategic infrastructure priorities and needs;
- 27 (c) Attract key freight services;
- 28 (d) Measure performance;
- 29 (e) Attract, develop, and retain maritime industry businesses;
- 30 (f) Identify and address state and local barriers to maritime
31 competitiveness utilizing risk-based, cost-beneficial, level playing
32 field principles; and
- 33 (g) Identify work force needs.

34 (4) The Washington maritime office shall collect and distribute
35 data regarding the maritime trade and industry. A report summarizing

1 the data shall be made available annually.

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