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HOUSE BILL 1857

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway, Hudgins, Wood, McCoy, Chase, Hasegawa and Santos

Read first time 02/08/2005. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade.

1            AN ACT Relating to the state's ability to participate in  
2 international trade agreements; adding a new section to chapter 44.04  
3 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.06 RCW; creating new sections;  
4 and declaring an emergency.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that with the creation  
7 of the world trade organization and the development of world markets,  
8 international trade agreements have begun to impact states and their  
9 economies. For the first time, states are included in agreements  
10 covering procurement by government entities. Moreover, the number of  
11 regional and bilateral agreements being negotiated by the federal  
12 government has increased under the 2002 trade promotion authority.

13            The legislature further finds that it is the role of the  
14 legislature to authorize the state's participation and the terms  
15 thereof in international trade agreements.

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

18            In order for the state to commit to participate in an international

1 trade agreement, the legislature must pass enabling legislation,  
2 establishing the parties to the agreement, the agencies included, and  
3 the extent of the state's participation.

4 (1) The legislature may enact prospective enabling legislation,  
5 establishing the terms and authorizing the governor to communicate the  
6 terms to the United States trade representative.

7 (2) The governor may condition the state's assent to a trade  
8 agreement upon the ratification of the legislature. The ratification  
9 must be done in the first regular session following the signing of the  
10 agreement by the United States and the other nations. If Washington's  
11 agreement is not ratified by the end of the first regular session  
12 following the agreement's signing, the governor's assent is null and  
13 void.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.06 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 The governor may not commit Washington to international trade  
17 agreements absent legislative-enabling legislation.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act applies to international trade  
19 agreements that are signed after the effective date of this act.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
22 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
23 immediately.

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