
HOUSE BILL 1898

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Chase, Skinner and Kessler

Read first time 02/09/2005. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an office of entrepreneurial
2 development; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and making appropriations.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington has a strong entrepreneurial
6 culture within its urban areas, however, the rural communities have not
7 enjoyed comparable economic growth and vitality. In addition,
8 Washington leads the nation not only in business creation, but it is
9 also one of the top states for business failures. New businesses have
10 a better chance of survival if they receive early stage technical
11 assistance and adequate access to capital.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The office of entrepreneurial development is established in the
15 department of community, trade, and economic development. The purpose
16 of the office of entrepreneurial development is to focus on developing
17 and coordinating programs that assist in creating entrepreneurial
18 activity. The office will:

1 (a) Work with secondary and higher education institutions, small
2 business development centers, small business incubators, nonprofit
3 organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal
4 organizations, and state and federal agencies to provide education,
5 training, and technical assistance that increases entrepreneurial
6 literacy, skills, and experiences;

7 (b) Work with state and federal agencies, commercial banks and
8 other lending institutions, federally recognized Indian tribes and
9 tribal organizations, community development financial institutions, and
10 nonprofit organizations to provide training and outreach to increase
11 entrepreneurs access to funding;

12 (c) Work with small business incubators, chambers of commerce,
13 federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations, local
14 community action centers, ports, public utility districts, and economic
15 development councils to help create an entrepreneurial culture, which
16 may include community asset mapping, leadership training, and the use
17 of industry cluster strategies;

18 (d) Convene work groups of rural community stakeholders to identify
19 policies that are barriers to entrepreneurship;

20 (e) Work with the rural development councils on business and
21 project development by conducting assessments of communities to
22 determine what a community requires for development and to develop
23 strategies to assist the community in developing. The department and
24 the rural development councils shall submit an initial report to the
25 appropriate committees of the legislature with policy recommendations
26 by December 1, 2005; and

27 (f) Have the authority to convene a partnership of appropriate
28 state agencies and stakeholders to implement the strategic regional and
29 community plans.

30 (2) Until July 1, 2010, the focus of the office of entrepreneurial
31 development will be on the rural communities of Washington. Beginning
32 July 1, 2010, the office shall perform its obligations under this
33 section for businesses located throughout the state.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars,
35 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the
36 general fund to the department of community, trade, and economic

1 development for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to carry out the
2 purposes of this act.

3 (2) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
4 may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund to the
5 department of community, trade, and economic development for the fiscal
6 year ending June 30, 2007, to carry out the purposes of this act.

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