
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8407

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Berkey, Kastama, Doumit, Rockefeller, Keiser, Esser, Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen, Kline and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/14/2005. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development.

1 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing of public and private sector jobs has
2 created concern about job loss in Washington; and
3 WHEREAS, Some contracts entered into by state agencies are being
4 performed, in whole or in part, outside the United States; and
5 WHEREAS, The legislature is concerned that these state contracts
6 are being entered into with little, if any, legislative oversight; and
7 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing of private sector jobs is creating
8 concern about unemployment in our state and demands on our public
9 services; and
10 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing of public and private sector work may
11 be eroding job opportunities and continuing to affect Washington
12 families and communities already suffering from high unemployment and
13 a jobless recovery; and
14 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing may put at risk the privacy of
15 medical records, financial data, and other personal information of
16 Washington citizens; and
17 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing may impact state and local tax
18 revenues needed to provide for the basic education, as well as to
19 protect the public health and safety, of Washington citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, Offshore outsourcing may result in transfers of knowledge
2 and core functions that curb entrepreneurial activities and limit
3 technological innovation essential to the future economic success of
4 Washington businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, The legislature invests significant public resources in
6 work force training and retraining, and wants to ensure that students
7 and workers who benefit from these investments have opportunities to
8 climb career ladders from entry-level jobs to family-wage jobs, and to
9 enjoy the prosperity that is the American dream; and

10 WHEREAS, The legislature has also invested significant public
11 resources in business development, recruitment, and retention, and
12 wants to ensure that corporations that benefit from these investments
13 are accountable to the legislature and the citizens of Washington
14 state; and

15 WHEREAS, The legislature is concerned about and wants to examine
16 the potential consequences of offshore outsourcing;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
18 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a study of
19 offshore outsourcing be conducted to evaluate the following issues:

20 The degree to which state contracts, and any subcontracts awarded
21 under such contracts, are being performed at locations outside the
22 United States;

23 The extent to which the following are adequate to protect
24 legislative authority over state procurement: The process for making
25 and extending the state's commitments under the agreement on government
26 procurement of the world trade organization and other international
27 trade agreements; and the exceptions in the agreement on government
28 procurement of the world trade organization and other international
29 trade agreements;

30 The applicability of international trade agreements to state
31 procurement policies;

32 The compliance of signatories to such agreements with international
33 and state child labor, environmental protection, human rights, and
34 labor standards;

35 The effects of such agreements on domestic preferences adopted by
36 signatories to such agreements;

37 The economic benefit of awarding personal services, purchased
38 services, civil service, and public works contracts to Washington

1 companies, including: The number of total employment positions in all
2 of the various wage categories; the number of full-time, part-time, and
3 temporary employment positions as a percent of total employment; and
4 the number of employment positions that have employer-provided medical,
5 dental, and retirement benefits, in all of the various wage categories;

6 The economic impacts of performing work under personal services,
7 purchased services, civil service, and public works contracts in
8 Washington, including: The multiplier effect on state and local tax
9 revenues; and the multiplier effect on state and local employment
10 levels;

11 The cost to the state of retraining workers who are separated from
12 employment because their positions were outsourced to locations outside
13 the United States, and issues relative to their eligibility for
14 training benefits under RCW 50.22.150;

15 The extent to which state contracts performed at locations outside
16 the United States involve solicitation or disclosure of personal
17 information; and

18 The relationship between state labor market conditions, including
19 unemployment rate and implications for trade-dependent industries, and
20 offshore outsourcing decisions; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the study be conducted by a joint task
22 force of the Senate and the House of Representatives consisting of the
23 following: Four senators to be appointed by the majority leader of the
24 Senate, four senators to be appointed by the minority leader of the
25 Senate; four representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
26 House of Representatives, and four representatives to be appointed by
27 the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The task force
28 shall be governed by cochairs, one to be selected by the majority
29 leader of the Senate, and the other to be selected by the Speaker of
30 the House of Representatives; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint task force shall consult
32 with an advisory committee consisting of contracting specialists from:
33 The department of general administration, office of state procurement;
34 the department of social and health services; the department of health;
35 the department of corrections; the department of information services;
36 and such private sector and labor representatives as the task force
37 shall select; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the findings and recommendations of
2 the joint task force be reported to the legislature by January 1, 2006.

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