
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1880

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Wallace, Anderson, Ormsby, Buri, Curtis, Haigh, Priest, Armstrong, Jarrett, Roberts, Kenney, Conway, Morrell and Wood)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the skills-based economic growth
2 program; amending RCW 28C.18.010; adding new sections to chapter 28C.18
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the education and
6 skills of Washington's workforce is a major determinant of the state's
7 economic growth, and that finding regional solutions to the state's
8 workforce needs are of paramount concern. The legislature further
9 recognizes that different areas of the state will need the flexibility
10 to fashion local solutions to their economic and workforce strengths
11 and challenges, and that regional workforce systems may evolve over
12 time.

13 The legislature finds that while the workforce system in Washington
14 is operated by numerous entities, each with a critical role, it should
15 function as one interconnected and coordinated system. Workforce
16 development planning, at the regional level, should be coordinated with
17 regional strategic plans. Further, regional and state plans should be
18 coordinated to achieve both statewide and local workforce development
19 goals. To facilitate this coordination and cooperation among state and

1 local regions, the legislature declares it to be in the state's
2 interest to establish a coordinated planning program for regional
3 workforce development systems throughout the state.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature authorizes a program under which local
7 workforce development councils shall serve as the lead regional
8 workforce development planning organizations within their regions. In
9 this capacity, each local council shall:

10 (a) Convene the following entities that are located or provide
11 services within its region:

- 12 (i) Community and technical colleges;
- 13 (ii) Economic development councils;
- 14 (iii) The employment security department;
- 15 (iv) Small business development centers;
- 16 (v) Skill centers;
- 17 (vi) Public four-year institutions of higher education;
- 18 (vii) Private two and four-year postsecondary institutions;
- 19 (viii) Apprenticeship programs;
- 20 (ix) Secondary career and technical education programs; and
- 21 (x) Other public, private, and nonprofit workforce-related
22 entities;

23 (b) Adopt and periodically update a consensus skills-based economic
24 growth plan for the region. This plan shall clearly articulate the
25 connection between the industry sectors the community is targeting for
26 growth and the skills training programs that the community is targeting
27 for expansion. The plan shall include, but is not limited to:

- 28 (i) Data on current and projected employment opportunities in the
29 local area;
- 30 (ii) Identification of workforce investment needs of existing
31 businesses and businesses considering location in the region;
- 32 (iii) Identification of educational, training, employment, and
33 support service needs of jobseekers and workers in the local area;
- 34 (iv) Analysis of the industry demand, potential labor force supply,
35 and educational, employment, and workforce support available to
36 businesses and jobseekers in the region;

1 (v) Development of industry cluster-based strategies to support the
2 regional economy, facilitate technology transfer and diffusion, and
3 increase value-added production;

4 (vi) Identification of the needs of those clusters, including
5 determining what sources of programs and initiatives are needed to
6 attract, grow, retain, and support those industries;

7 (vii) Recommendations for the most efficient use of existing
8 workforce infrastructure and funding to maximize service to individuals
9 and industry; and

10 (viii) Creation of a financial plan demonstrating how the regional
11 workforce plan can be implemented, including all resources that are
12 reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the plan, and
13 recommending any techniques to leverage and increase available
14 resources and services to individual and industry customers.

15 (2) This section does not relieve workforce development councils of
16 any planning requirements that exist under federal law, that are not
17 included in this section.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) Workforce development councils may submit an application to
21 participate in the skills-based economic growth program under this
22 section. The board shall review the applications to ensure they meet
23 the criteria for the program.

24 (2) A workforce development council participating in the program
25 under this section shall convene other local workforce development
26 agencies and develop a skills-based economic growth plan for their
27 region that is supported by the local workforce development agencies.
28 The plan must be adopted within their region by November 30, 2008, and
29 approved by the board by February 15, 2009.

30 (3) A workforce development council participating in the program
31 under this section shall establish procedures to track and annually
32 report: The amount of new state and nonstate funding brought into the
33 community as a result of the skills-based economic growth planning
34 process; training capacity expansion achieved in programs targeted by
35 the plan; impact on local economic growth; and the impact on career
36 opportunities for local residents.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the
4 board shall create the local skills-based economic growth planning
5 program. The board shall determine the criteria for the distribution
6 of funds for the program.

7 (2) The board may, in implementing this section, accept, use, and
8 dispose of contributions of money, services, and property. All moneys
9 received by the board for the purposes of this section must be
10 deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer. Only the
11 board or a duly authorized representative thereof may authorize
12 expenditures from this account. In order to maintain an effective
13 expenditure and revenue control, the account is subject in all respects
14 to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit
15 expenditure of moneys in the account.

16 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28C.18.010 and 1996 c 99 s 2 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
19 this section apply throughout this title.

20 (1) "Board" means the workforce training and education coordinating
21 board.

22 (2) "Director" means the director of the workforce training and
23 education coordinating board.

24 (3) "Training system" means programs and courses of secondary
25 vocational education, technical college programs and courses, community
26 college vocational programs and courses, private career school and
27 college programs and courses, employer-sponsored training, adult basic
28 education programs and courses, programs and courses funded by the job
29 training partnership act, programs and courses funded by the federal
30 vocational act, programs and courses funded under the federal adult
31 education act, publicly funded programs and courses for adult literacy
32 education, and apprenticeships, and programs and courses offered by
33 private and public nonprofit organizations that are representative of
34 communities or significant segments of communities and provide job
35 training or adult literacy services.

36 (4) "Workforce skills" means skills developed through applied
37 learning that strengthen and reinforce an individual's academic

1 knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, and work ethic and,
2 thereby, develop the employability, occupational skills, and management
3 of home and work responsibilities necessary for economic independence.

4 (5) "Vocational education" means organized educational programs
5 offering a sequence of courses which are directly related to the
6 preparation or retraining of individuals in paid or unpaid employment
7 in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a baccalaureate
8 or advanced degree. Such programs shall include competency-based
9 applied learning which contributes to an individual's academic
10 knowledge, higher-order reasoning, and problem-solving skills, work
11 attitudes, general employability skills, and the occupational-specific
12 skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and
13 contributing member of society. Such term also includes applied
14 technology education.

15 (6) "Adult basic education" means instruction designed to achieve
16 mastery of skills in reading, writing, oral communication, and
17 computation at a level sufficient to allow the individual to function
18 effectively as a parent, worker, and citizen in the United States,
19 commensurate with that individual's actual ability level, and includes
20 English as a second language and preparation and testing service for
21 the general education development exam.

22 (7) "Workforce development council" means workforce investment
23 board as established in Public Law 105-220 Sec. 117.

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