

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6805

As of January 29, 2010

Title: An act relating to the Washington state economic development commission.

Brief Description: Concerning the Washington state economic development commission.

Sponsors: Senators Kastama, Zarelli, Shin and Delvin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Economic Development, Trade & Innovation: 2/01/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE & INNOVATION

Staff: Jack Brummel (786-7428)

Background: In 2002 Governor Locke created the Washington Economic Development Commission (Commission) through executive order. The following year the Legislature established the Commission in statute with the stated intent to: have it develop and update the state's economic development strategy and performance measures; and provide advice to and oversight of the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, now the Department of Commerce (Department). In 2007 the Legislature revised the statutory structure, and expanded the policy role and responsibilities of the Commission. The Commission's responsibilities include conducting outcome evaluations of the state's economic development system. The Commission's funding has historically flowed through the Department. The Commission does not have specific authorization to solicit funds from non-state sources.

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTB) was created in 1991 with strategic planning, coordination, and evaluation functions similar to the Commission's. The WTB has a biennial budget of \$57 million and a staff of 28.

Summary of Bill: The Commission is to develop and adopt budgets and workplans consistent with legislative appropriations. State funds for the Commission are to flow through the WTB and the WTB is to act as the fiscal agent for the Commission. The WTB may use no more than 10 percent of state appropriated funds and 3 percent of other funds.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Washington State Economic Development Commission Account is created in the custody of the State Treasurer. The Commission may accept, from any public or private source, gifts, grants and contributions which must be deposited in the account.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.