
SENATE BILL 6015

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Murray, Delvin, and Marr

Read first time 02/13/09. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the director of commercialization and innovation
2 within the office of the governor; and adding a new chapter to Title 43
3 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Washington state is fortunate to have a
6 dynamic technology industry sector that benefits from vibrant global
7 demand for its output and which helps drive the Washington state
8 economy. Washington state is uniquely positioned to shape its future
9 success in innovation in the technology sectors of life sciences and
10 high tech. Nearly every state in the nation is competing to develop a
11 strong innovation economy. Washington has the fertile ground in world-
12 class research, entrepreneurial spirit and talent, an actively
13 collaborative community, and an existing foundational sector.

14 (2) To leverage its potential, the state must actively work to
15 create and ensure a supportive environment that enables entrepreneurial
16 people and companies to convert their innovative ideas into marketable
17 new products and services. Providing such an environment would:

18 (a) Solidify Washington state as a global hotbed of knowledge and
19 technology commercialization;

1 (b) Create more highly rewarding and well-paying careers for
2 Washington's citizens;

3 (c) Grow more companies in new and far reaching markets;

4 (d) Renew traditional industries through value added technology
5 adaptation; and

6 (e) Generate solid returns for Washington state.

7 (3) In order for Washington to focus on strengthening and growing
8 Washington's innovation economy, a position should be established that
9 reports directly to the governor to direct state government activities
10 aimed to promote and grow innovation in the development and
11 commercialization of proprietary technology in life sciences, such as
12 medical devices and biotechnology, including biofuels and alternative
13 clean energy; and information technology, including hardware, software,
14 internet infrastructure, that address high potential emerging and
15 growing markets.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is hereby created the director of
17 commercialization and innovation within the office of the governor for
18 the purposes of promoting innovation in the development and
19 commercialization of proprietary technology.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The director of commercialization and
21 innovation shall have the following powers and duties:

22 (1) Investigate targeted investment strategies to advance
23 commercialization and innovation at the preseed and seed stage of
24 companies in Washington state;

25 (2) Establish relationships and serve as a liaison to
26 representatives from the life sciences and technology communities to
27 governmental and business entities, including life science trade and
28 technology trade associations;

29 (3) Monitor and mitigate state policies, bills, and fiscal affairs
30 as related to life sciences and technology innovation to insure
31 competitive growth of the industry;

32 (4) Manage overall strategies and direction of state government
33 activities related to the life sciences and technology innovation;

34 (5) Manage the state's technology-based economic development
35 efforts, making sure the necessary infrastructure is in place to assist
36 companies at every stage of the business life cycle;

1 (6) Work to enhance technology transfer and commercialization from
2 the state's public research universities;

3 (7) Lead the governor's commercialization and innovation strategy
4 and direct the implementation;

5 (8) Chart the course for strategy implementation, tactics, and
6 setting high expectations for continuous high tech business and
7 employee growth in Washington state;

8 (9) Identify similar programs in cabinet level departments
9 including, but not limited to, community, trade, and economic
10 development, education and workforce education, and the department of
11 revenue, to ensure all policies and deliverables do not work at cross
12 purposes;

13 (10) Lead the effort to position the state as the leader in
14 commercialization of technology innovation, life sciences, and emerging
15 companies;

16 (11) Direct political and community relations strategies to help
17 public and private decision makers better understand the needs of the
18 industry;

19 (12) Conduct market analysis and competitive review; and

20 (13) Collaborate with industry representatives and others to
21 increase the amount of local or regional investment capital available
22 for early stage investments in Washington companies.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director of commercialization and
24 innovation shall report on the work and accomplishments of the office
25 and advise and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature
26 annually. The initial report to the governor and the legislature shall
27 be made by December 1, 2009, and there shall be annual reports by
28 December 1st each year thereafter.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
30 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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