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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6706**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2010 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Economic Development, Trade & Innovation (originally sponsored by Senators Murray, Delvin, Kastama, Shin, Marr, Kilmer, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/10.

1       AN ACT Relating to commercialization of research at state  
2 universities; amending RCW 42.52.160; and adding new sections to  
3 chapter 28B.63 RCW.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.63 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7       (1) It is the intent of the legislature that state universities  
8 engage in the commercialization of research and other economic  
9 development and workforce development activities that benefit the  
10 intermediate and long-term economic vitality of Washington. State  
11 universities are expected to develop and strengthen university-industry  
12 relationships through the conduct of research, the support of company  
13 formation and job generation, and collaborative training. The state  
14 universities must perform one or more of the following functions:

15       (a) Provide collaborative research and technology transfer  
16 opportunities;

17       (b) Publicize their commercialization processes and include an  
18 explanation of how to access commercialization resources at the  
19 universities;

1 (c) Develop mechanisms for pairing researchers, entrepreneurs, and  
2 investors. Such mechanisms are to include, but are not limited to,  
3 developing guides, web sites, or workshops on funding opportunities, on  
4 entrepreneurship and the process of starting a company, and on  
5 university-industry relations;

6 (d) Host events to connect researchers to entrepreneurs, investors,  
7 and individuals from the state's technology-based industries; and

8 (e) Provide opportunities for training undergraduate and graduate  
9 students through direct involvement in research and industry  
10 interactions.

11 (2) In carrying out the duties in this section, the universities  
12 may work with and through the higher education coordinating board.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.63 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 To facilitate the creation of companies based on university  
16 research, the state universities are authorized to establish and  
17 administer bridge-funding programs for start-up companies using funds  
18 from the federal government and the private sector.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.52.160 and 1996 c 213 s 7 are each amended to read  
20 as follows:

21 (1) No state officer or state employee may employ or use any  
22 person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official  
23 control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the  
24 private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

25 (2) This section does not prohibit the use of public resources to  
26 benefit others as part of a state officer's or state employee's  
27 official duties.

28 (3) To facilitate the formation of companies from universities,  
29 university research employees may make reasonable use of the  
30 university's facilities, services, and commercialization resources to  
31 benefit these start-up companies.

32 (4) The appropriate ethics boards may adopt rules providing  
33 exceptions to this section for occasional use of the state officer or  
34 state employee, of de minimis cost and value, if the activity does not

1 result in interference with the proper performance of public duties.

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