
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8406

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama, Shin, Jarrett, and Kilmer

Read first time 02/18/09. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 WHEREAS, Chapter 232, Laws of 2007, states the legislature's intent
2 to create the Washington state economic development commission to
3 provide planning, coordination, evaluation, monitoring, and policy
4 analysis and development for the state economic development system and
5 to provide advice to the governor and legislature concerning the state
6 economic development system; and

7 WHEREAS, The Washington state economic development commission is
8 required to develop and maintain on a biennial basis a state
9 comprehensive plan for economic development; and

10 WHEREAS, The state faces great uncertainties which increase the
11 need for a framework to guide policy choices and investment; and

12 WHEREAS, The state's innovation capacity will be the most
13 significant determinant of future jobs, standard of living, and
14 competitiveness in world markets; and

15 WHEREAS, The state's talent, investment climate, and infrastructure
16 quality are three interrelated components of innovation capacity; and

17 WHEREAS, Innovation should be integrated as a fundamental priority
18 of all economic development agencies and organizations across the
19 state, the private business sector, research and education
20 institutions, and the nonprofit and philanthropic sector; and

1 WHEREAS, Informed and sound policy development requires timely and
2 high quality 21st century innovation metrics and performance
3 indicators; and

4 WHEREAS, Local business and civic leadership must be encouraged to
5 create innovation strategies and ecosystems around strategically
6 important industry clusters; and

7 WHEREAS, The state has entrepreneurial growth opportunities in
8 energy alternatives, electric car transportation, global health,
9 advanced manufacturing, information technology, broadband applications,
10 value-add agriculture, and service sector innovation; and

11 WHEREAS, The state comprehensive plan for economic development sets
12 forth the following twenty-one strategic opportunities for the next ten
13 years:

14 (1) Enhance competitiveness by developing home-grown talent and
15 attracting top talent from around the world by ensuring the state
16 appeals to those who have a choice of where to live;

17 (2) Strengthen the framework for the coordination of economic and
18 workforce development through common definitions, coordinated planning
19 at the regional level, and the connection between employers and
20 postsecondary education and training;

21 (3) Ensure that K-12 schools are preparing students for
22 postsecondary education through a reduced dropout rate and increased
23 graduation requirements;

24 (4) Improve the output of the state's postsecondary system through
25 increased number of degrees awarded, a focus on science, technology,
26 engineering, and mathematics fields, and improved transition from
27 secondary school;

28 (5) Ensure that working adults can learn new skills and move up a
29 career ladder through an expanded "reentry" pipeline that allows adults
30 to shift to new careers;

31 (6) Promote a new Washington innovation culture emphasizing
32 lifelong learning, discovery, creativity, and entrepreneurship by
33 implementing a unified comprehensive and collaborative marketing
34 campaign with the Washington economic development commission, K-12, the
35 workforce training and education coordinating board, the higher
36 education coordinating board, labor, and others;

37 (7) Facilitate job transitions and continue modernizing

1 unemployment insurance to allow more time for educational experiences
2 and to reduce the time between jobs;

3 (8) Strengthen apprenticeship programs to support skills needed in
4 national and state economic recovery programs;

5 (9) Ensure that state-funded infrastructure investments support a
6 strategic emphasis on innovation;

7 (10) Provide energy, water, wastewater, and communications utility
8 services that support innovation ecosystems by orienting programs
9 toward "smart" infrastructure. Ensure that broadband technology is
10 affordable and accessible to all the state's citizens;

11 (11) Leverage federal spending to enhance the state's economy
12 through congestion relief, improved freight mobility, improved
13 connectivity, and rural access;

14 (12) Enhance the state's air and marine transportation facilities
15 by enhancing the efficiency and flow of container traffic and planning
16 for an additional international airport in the state;

17 (13) Provide adequate tools for infrastructure funding that use new
18 and existing programs to support high strategic value investments;

19 (14) Streamline regulatory and environmental processes to boost
20 private sector investment and create jobs;

21 (15) Compete for federal research and development funds in
22 strategic areas across a broad spectrum of disciplines;

23 (16) Expand the STARS program, matching state funds with funds from
24 a combination of businesses, foundations, local communities, and the
25 federal government with the guidance and performance criteria of the
26 economic development commission;

27 (17) Strengthen innovation partnership zones through linkage with
28 the STARS program and integration of workforce and infrastructure
29 funding resources;

30 (18) Champion innovation by creating innovation awards to recognize
31 outstanding entrepreneurial teams and the products, services, and
32 processes they have brought to commercial success;

33 (19) Emphasize performance and accountability by implementing an
34 innovation dashboard to provide a real-time assessment of the state's
35 innovation performance in the global economy;

36 (20) Increase access to entrepreneurial capital, including seed
37 financing and debt or equity funding for start-ups and entrepreneurs;
38 and

1 (21) Establish criteria for funding innovation projects and
2 assemble a portfolio of recommended "innovation ready" projects; and
3 WHEREAS, The Washington economic development commission used an
4 inclusive process of public hearings, expert advice, and local
5 innovation to develop consensus on the strategies identified in the
6 plan and has secured the engagement of critical constituencies,
7 including business, labor, higher education, research institutions,
8 economic development authorities, and local governments;
9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the state of
10 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, hereby accept and
11 approve the state comprehensive plan for economic development, "The
12 Washington Innovation Economy," and adopt it as the state's economic
13 development policy.

--- END ---