

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5982

As of January 18, 2012

Title: An act relating to the joint center for aerospace technology innovation.

Brief Description: Creating the joint center for aerospace technology innovation.

Sponsors: Senators Kastama, Shin, Hobbs, Harper, Eide, Kilmer, Conway, Sheldon, Haugen, Kohl-Welles, Frockt, Keiser, Fain, Tom, Chase and McAuliffe; by request of Governor Gregoire.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Economic Development, Trade & Innovation: 1/19/12.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE & INNOVATION

Staff: Jack Brummel (786-7428)

Background: Global competition in the aerospace industry has intensified in the past decades. In response, a number of states have developed mechanisms to strengthen academic/industry collaboration to support the aerospace industry. Advocates for increased growth of the aerospace industry in the state believe that Washington needs to become a global center for aerospace research, education, and technology transfer.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): The Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation is created to pursue joint industry-university research that can be used in aerospace firms, enhance the education of engineering students, and work with the aerospace industry to identify research needs and opportunities to transfer off-the-shelf technologies. The center is to operate as a multi-institutional center under the joint authority of Innovate Washington, the University of Washington, and Washington State University.

The center will have a board of directors appointed by the Governor, representing a cross section of the aerospace industry and higher education. The board is to:

- hire an executive director;
- identify research areas to benefit the aerospace industry in Washington;
- identify entrepreneurial researchers and the steps the universities will take to recruit such researchers;

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- assist firms to integrate existing technologies into their operations;
- align the center's activities with those of Impact Washington and Innovate Washington;
- ensure that students enrolled in an aerospace engineering curriculum have direct experience with aerospace firms;
- assist researchers and firms in guarding intellectual property;
- promote collaboration between industry and faculty; and
- develop non-state support for research.

By June 30, 2013, the board is to develop an operating plan that includes specifics on how the center will accomplish its duties. The board is to provide a biennial report to the Legislature and the Governor. The center may solicit funds from a variety of sources to carry out its obligations.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 18, 2012.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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