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SENATE BILL 5404

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Chase, Kastama, Hatfield, Shin, Prentice, McAuliffe, Kohl-Welles, Conway, and Keiser

Read first time 01/24/11. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing community economic revitalization  
2 board funding to benefit innovation partnership zones; and amending RCW  
3 43.160.010 and 43.160.020.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.160.010 and 2008 c 327 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that it is the public policy of the state  
8 of Washington to direct financial resources toward the fostering of  
9 economic development through the stimulation of investment and job  
10 opportunities and the retention of sustainable existing employment for  
11 the general welfare of the inhabitants of the state. Reducing  
12 unemployment and reducing the time citizens remain jobless is important  
13 for the economic welfare of the state. A valuable means of fostering  
14 economic development is the construction of public facilities which  
15 contribute to the stability and growth of the state's economic base.  
16 Expenditures made for these purposes as authorized in this chapter are  
17 declared to be in the public interest, and constitute a proper use of  
18 public funds. A community economic revitalization board is needed

1 which shall aid the development of economic opportunities. The general  
2 objectives of the board should include:

3 (a) Strengthening the economies of areas of the state which have  
4 experienced or are expected to experience chronically high unemployment  
5 rates or below average growth in their economies;

6 (b) Encouraging the diversification of the economies of the state  
7 and regions within the state in order to provide greater seasonal and  
8 cyclical stability of income and employment;

9 (c) Encouraging wider access to financial resources for both large  
10 and small industrial development projects;

11 (d) Encouraging new economic development or expansions to maximize  
12 employment;

13 (e) Encouraging the retention of viable existing firms and  
14 employment; (~~and~~)

15 (f) Providing incentives for expansion of employment opportunities  
16 for groups of state residents that have been less successful relative  
17 to other groups in efforts to gain permanent employment; and

18 (g) Enhancing job and business growth through facility development  
19 and other improvements in innovation partnership zones designated under  
20 RCW 43.330.270.

21 (2) The legislature also finds that the state's economic  
22 development efforts can be enhanced by, in certain instances, providing  
23 funds to improve state highways, county roads, or city streets for  
24 industries considering locating or expanding in this state.

25 (3) The legislature finds it desirable to provide a process whereby  
26 the need for diverse public works improvements necessitated by planned  
27 economic development can be addressed in a timely fashion and with  
28 coordination among all responsible governmental entities.

29 (4) The legislature also finds that the state's economic  
30 development efforts can be enhanced by, in certain instances, providing  
31 funds to assist development of telecommunications infrastructure that  
32 supports business development, retention, and expansion in the state.

33 (5) The legislature also finds that the state's economic  
34 development efforts can be enhanced by providing funds to improve  
35 markets for those recyclable materials representing a large fraction of  
36 the waste stream. The legislature finds that public facilities which  
37 result in private construction of processing or remanufacturing

1 facilities for recyclable materials are eligible for consideration from  
2 the board.

3 (6) The legislature finds that sharing economic growth statewide is  
4 important to the welfare of the state. The ability of communities to  
5 pursue business and job retention, expansion, and development  
6 opportunities depends on their capacity to ready necessary economic  
7 development project plans, sites, permits, and infrastructure for  
8 private investments. Project-specific planning, predevelopment, and  
9 infrastructure are critical ingredients for economic development. It  
10 is, therefore, the intent of the legislature to increase the amount of  
11 funding available through the community economic revitalization board  
12 and to authorize flexibility for available resources in these areas to  
13 help fund planning, predevelopment, and construction costs of  
14 infrastructure and facilities and sites that foster economic vitality  
15 and diversification.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.160.020 and 2009 c 565 s 35 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
19 this section apply throughout this chapter.

20 (1) "Board" means the community economic revitalization board.

21 (2) "Department" means the department of commerce.

22 (3) "Local government" or "political subdivision" means any port  
23 district, county, city, town, special purpose district, and any other  
24 municipal corporations or quasi-municipal corporations in the state  
25 providing for public facilities under this chapter.

26 (4) "Public facilities" means a project of a local government or a  
27 federally recognized Indian tribe for the planning, acquisition,  
28 construction, repair, reconstruction, replacement, rehabilitation, or  
29 improvement of: Bridges((τ)); roads((τ)); research, testing, training,  
30 and incubation facilities in areas designated as innovation partnership  
31 zones under RCW 43.330.270; buildings or structures; domestic and  
32 industrial water, earth stabilization, sanitary sewer, storm sewer,  
33 railroad, electricity, telecommunications, transportation, natural gas,  
34 (~~buildings or structures~~,τ)) and port facilities((τ)); all for the  
35 purpose of job creation, job retention, or job expansion.

36 (5) "Rural county" means a county with a population density of  
37 fewer than one hundred persons per square mile or a county smaller than

1 two hundred twenty-five square miles, as determined by the office of  
2 financial management and published each year by the department for the  
3 period July 1st to June 30th.

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