
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2434

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By House Technology & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Smith, Tarleton, Stokesbary, Magendanz, Stanford, Haler, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to the promotion of space exploration; adding a
2 new section to chapter 44.28 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 43
3 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature to
6 assist and expedite the growth of Washington state's nascent space
7 exploration-related manufacturing and intellectual property sectors.
8 In partnership with space exploration industry sector participants,
9 it is the intent of the legislature to create tools for the industry
10 through the Washington state space exploration center of excellence
11 that will assist this nascent sector in distinguishing itself from
12 aerospace sectors, establishing the reputation of the Washington
13 state space exploration sector, increasing the number of federal
14 research dollars awarded to the state, recruiting future sector
15 experts, and creating a method to measure the success of these goals.

16 (2) The legislature declares that the total contribution of the
17 state towards establishing the Washington state space exploration
18 center of excellence shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand
19 dollars.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created the Washington state
2 space exploration center of excellence within the department of
3 commerce. As used in this chapter, "center" means the Washington
4 state space exploration center of excellence.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The purpose of the center is to:

6 (1) Support joint industry-university research in developing and
7 supporting new and existing technologies that can be used by space
8 exploration firms;

9 (2) Assist the University of Washington, Washington State
10 University, and other participating institutions in recruiting future
11 space exploration sector leaders to enhance the education of students
12 and promote a pathway for K-12 and postsecondary students in the
13 engineering and other space exploration-related programs through
14 industry-focused research and applied learning;

15 (3) Work directly with existing small, medium, and large-sized
16 space firms and space industry associations to identify research
17 needs and opportunities to transfer technologies that would benefit
18 such firms;

19 (4) Provide a centralized Washington space exploration industry
20 hub to facilitate communication, participation, and growth of the
21 industry;

22 (5) Promote and foster local space exploration industry efforts
23 to increase statewide competitiveness; and

24 (6) Coordinate efforts with other governmental entities,
25 nongovernmental organizations, and academics to solicit significant
26 industry conferences and meetings to Washington, including those
27 events that would facilitate and encourage industry development,
28 collaboration, and planning.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center shall:

30 (1) Make its facilities and resources, including internships and
31 research opportunities, readily available to all four-year
32 institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016; K-12
33 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs; and
34 career and technical education programs approved by the office of the
35 superintendent of public instruction;

36 (2) Work with space exploration industry associations and space
37 exploration firms of all sizes to identify the research areas that

1 will benefit the intermediate and long-term economic vitality of the
2 Washington space exploration industry;

3 (3) Provide technical assistance to researchers and space
4 exploration firms in safeguarding intellectual property while
5 advancing space exploration industry innovation;

6 (4) Develop and strengthen university-industry relationships
7 through promotion of faculty collaboration with industry;

8 (5) Maintain transparency by requiring that a grant of state or
9 nonstate funds may not be made by the center to any project that
10 involves space flight if the payload of that space flight is not
11 disclosed in the grant application;

12 (6) Sponsor at least one annual symposium focusing on space
13 exploration research and innovation in Washington and provide support
14 for up to five additional events hosted by space exploration industry
15 associations or other space-related entities;

16 (7) Hold at least two annual meetings to provide a forum for
17 space exploration industry experts, firms, governmental entities, and
18 other space exploration industry participants to discuss the
19 successes, barriers, and needs of the space exploration industry;

20 (8) By January 9, 2017, develop short and long-term work plans
21 that include the specific processes, methods, or mechanisms the
22 center will use to accomplish each of the duties provided in this
23 section:

24 (a) The long-term operating plan required by this subsection (8)
25 must be a ten-year plan;

26 (b) The operating plan must include appropriate performance
27 metrics, including the:

28 (i) Total number of space exploration researchers recruited;

29 (ii) Total workforce trained;

30 (iii) Total number of jobs created, calculated by using the
31 Washington state space exploration sector employment number per firm
32 as a mean;

33 (iv) Total number of products or processes that have progressed
34 to commercialization and private sector deployment; and

35 (v) Space exploration research articulated curricula created; and

36 (9) Report biennially to the legislature and the governor about
37 the impact of the center's work on the state's economy and the space
38 exploration sector, including: (a) Projections for future impact; (b)
39 indicators of the center's impact; (c) an outline of ideas for
40 enhancing benefits to the state; and (d) progress updates on the

1 center's short and long-term work plans, including the status of
2 achieving the milestones identified in this act and in the center's
3 long-term work plan.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** In order to carry out its responsibilities
5 under this chapter, the center may:

6 (1) Receive such gifts, grants, funds, fees, and endowments, in
7 trust or otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes and
8 duties of the center. The center may expend the same or any income
9 therefrom according to the terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments;

10 (2) Initiate, conduct, or contract for studies and research
11 relating to market development for space exploration technologies
12 including, but not limited to, applied research, technology transfer,
13 and pilot demonstration projects;

14 (3) Enter into, amend, and terminate contracts with individuals,
15 corporations, trade associations, and research institutions for the
16 purposes of this chapter;

17 (4) Provide business and marketing assistance to public and
18 private sector entities related to space exploration within the
19 state; and

20 (5) Evaluate, analyze, and make recommendations on state policies
21 that may affect the nascent space exploration industry.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The center shall solicit financial
23 contributions and support from private sector sources, foundations,
24 and grants from governmental sources to assist in conducting its
25 activities. It may also use separately appropriated funds of the
26 department of commerce for the center's activities.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 44.28
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct an
30 evaluation of the performance of the Washington state space
31 exploration center of excellence created in chapter 43.--- RCW (the
32 new chapter created in section 8 of this act) and report its findings
33 and recommendations to the governor and the economic development
34 committees of the senate and house of representatives by July 1,
35 2027. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the extent to
36 which the center has contributed to the economic development of the

1 state, as indicated by the achievement of the following milestones,
2 measured using the metrics identified in section 4 of this act:

3 (1) An increase in federal space exploration dollars by thirty
4 percent;

5 (2) Establishment of a program to recruit future space
6 exploration sector research experts to Washington's four-year
7 institutions of higher education;

8 (3) An increase in the number of jobs in the space exploration
9 sector by fifteen percent;

10 (4) Assistance in creating a space exploration research
11 curriculum in a Washington state college or university;

12 (5) An increase in the number of secondary and postsecondary
13 students who participate in work-based learning or research, and who
14 complete internships or on-the-job training related to the space
15 exploration sector; and

16 (6) Creation of an ongoing ten-year plan for creating economic
17 growth in the space exploration sector, including workforce
18 development.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act
20 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If any provision of this act or its
22 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
23 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
24 persons or circumstances is not affected.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** If specific funding for the purposes of
26 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
27 provided by June 30, 2016, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
28 act is null and void.

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