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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6544**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2018 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Chase, Brown, Hasegawa, Wagoner, Wellman, Takko, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the future of work task force;  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 28C RCW; creating new sections; and  
3 providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that automation,  
6 artificial intelligence, access to new forms of data, and the  
7 internet of things are driving mass transformation of all sectors and  
8 almost all occupations. Researchers predict anywhere from thirty to  
9 forty-seven percent of jobs will be replaced by robots by 2030.

10 The legislature further finds that the United States has already  
11 lost millions of jobs to automation. In manufacturing alone, since  
12 2000, robots have taken over four million four hundred thousand jobs.  
13 By comparison, six hundred thousand manufacturing jobs were lost due  
14 to foreign competition.

15 Blue collar and technical workers have been hit hardest and are  
16 the least likely to find employment with similar or higher wage  
17 levels. On the employer side, small and midsized suppliers lose their  
18 competitive advantage when larger businesses bring automated  
19 processes in-house.

20 Finally, the legislature recognizes that in rural and suburban  
21 regions, small and midsized businesses are critical to the local

1 economy. When these businesses close, they are unlikely to be  
2 replaced quickly by enterprises that can absorb dislocated workers  
3 and middle class wages.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The future of work task force is  
5 established to:

6 (a) Inventory and periodically assess trends and factors that are  
7 current or potential drivers of transformation of industries and work  
8 in Washington;

9 (b) Identify policies and practices that will help Washington's  
10 businesses, workers, and communities thrive economically, while  
11 responding to rapid changes in technology, workplace practices,  
12 environmental and security issues, and global interdependence;

13 (c) Recommend mechanisms and structures for sustainable industry  
14 sector partnerships through which employers and workers can  
15 collaborate to support their sector's growth in Washington; and

16 (d) Create a policy framework that supports a talent development  
17 pipeline and lifelong learning structure that:

18 (i) Prepares Washington's young people to navigate careers and  
19 workplaces of the future;

20 (ii) Helps workers keep their skills up-to-date or retrain for  
21 new careers when needed;

22 (iii) Enables attainment of credentials that are portable,  
23 transferable, and cost and time efficient;

24 (iv) Provides opportunities for instructional staff to keep pace  
25 with changes in their disciplines and related occupations; and

26 (v) Allows for collaborative applied research between businesses,  
27 instructional staff, and students to learn concurrently about new  
28 technology and assist companies with adoption.

29 (2) The task force must consist of:

30 (a) Two members from the house of representatives, with one  
31 member appointed from each of the two major caucuses of the house of  
32 representatives by the speaker of the house of representatives and  
33 the minority leader of the house of representatives;

34 (b) Two members from the senate, with one member appointed from  
35 each of the two major caucuses of the senate by the majority leader  
36 and minority leader of the senate; and

37 (c) Six business and six labor representatives appointed by the  
38 workforce training and education coordinating board.

1 (3) The workforce training and education coordinating board may  
2 contract with research advisors from various disciplines in order to  
3 carry out the duties of the task force.

4 (4) The task force may meet as appropriate, but not more than  
5 four times a year, either in person or by any means of communication  
6 by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other  
7 during the meeting.

8 (5) This section expires June 30, 2020.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Subject to the availability of amounts  
10 appropriated for this specific purpose, the workforce training and  
11 education coordinating board must perform the following duties under  
12 the direction of the future of work task force:

13 (1) Develop and maintain an inventory of the current and future  
14 trends and factors that drive transformation of industries and work  
15 in Washington over the next twenty-five years;

16 (2) Research best and promising practices from state, national,  
17 and international sources, and develop case examples;

18 (3) Gather input from employers and workers from the major  
19 industrial sectors of Washington, via surveys and community forums,  
20 ensuring that every region of the state is consulted;

21 (4) Identify relevant metrics and recommend a possible dashboard  
22 for tracking the state's success, addressing future of work issues,  
23 including analysis of what data sets are readily available and what  
24 new data might need to be collected and by whom;

25 (5) Consult with public and not-for-profit organizations that  
26 support businesses or their workforce to identify policy or  
27 structural barriers that hinder the ability of not-for-profit  
28 organizations to effectively support business and workforce  
29 development in a transformational environment;

30 (6) Make an initial set of recommendations and a research design  
31 report describing the plan and methods to be used by the task force  
32 by December 31, 2018; and

33 (7) Make a report to the appropriate committees of the  
34 legislature and the governor on task force activities and  
35 recommendations by December 1, 2019. The report must include a  
36 recommendation of research and activities the future of work task  
37 force would complete if the task force were to continue.

38 (8) This section expires June 30, 2020.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    If specific funding for the purposes of  
2 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
3 provided by June 30, 2018, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
4 act is null and void.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Sections 2 and 3 of this act constitute a  
6 new chapter in Title 28C RCW.

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