

---

SENATE BILL 6544

---

State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session

By Senators Chase, Brown, Hasegawa, Wagoner, Wellman, Takko, and Conway

Read first time 01/24/18. Referred to Committee on Economic Development & International Trade.

1            AN ACT Relating to establishing the future of work task force;  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 28C RCW; creating a new section; and  
3 making an appropriation.

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 task force may contract with research advisors from  
2 various disciplines in order to carry out the duties of the task  
3 force.

4 (4) The task force must meet at least four times a year, either  
5 in person or by any means of communication by which all persons  
6 participating in the meeting can hear each other during the meeting.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The future of work task force must perform  
8 the following duties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (7) Beginning in 2019, make an annual report to the appropriate  
30 committees of the legislature and the governor on task force  
31 activities and recommendations. The report is due December 1st of  
32 each year.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of three hundred fifty thousand  
34 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
35 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, from the general fund to the  
36 workforce training and education coordinating board for the purposes  
37 of this act.

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

--- END ---