
**Innovation, Technology & Economic
Development Committee**

2SSB 6139

Brief Description: Extending the joint center for aerospace technology innovation program.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Mullet, Wagoner, Takko, Wilson, L., Wilson, C., Randall, Conway, Stanford and Carlyle).

Brief Summary of Second Substitute Bill

- Extends the sunset date for the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation to July 1, 2030.

Hearing Date: 2/25/20

Staff: Kyle Raymond (786-7190).

Background:

Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation.

Legislation was enacted in 2012 to create the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation (JCATI). The JCATI was created to pursue joint industry-university aerospace research, enhance the education of students, and work directly with aerospace firms in Washington.

The JCATI operates as a multi-institutional center under the joint authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University. The JCATI has a board of directors appointed by the Governor, representing a cross section of the aerospace industry and higher education. The Legislature provides \$3 million per biennium to the JCATI.

Sunset Review of the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation Program.

The JCATI is scheduled to terminate July 1, 2020, under the Washington Sunset Act. The Sunset Act requires the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct a performance review a year before a program is set to be terminated and provide a report with

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recommendations regarding whether the program should be retained, modified, or allowed to terminate.

The JLARC conducted a performance review of the JCATI program and published recommendations in December 2019. The Legislative Auditor's conclusion is that the Legislature should continue the program because it is meeting the legislative intent to pursue joint university-industry research, enhance the education of students, and work with aerospace firms in Washington.

Washington Law Against Discrimination.

Washington's law against discrimination prohibits discrimination against a person in the enjoyment of public accommodations, in employment, in real estate transactions, insurance, and credit transactions, and other specific circumstances based on the person's race, creed, color, national origin, sex, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or, in certain circumstances, other factors.

Discriminatory acts are considered unfair practices and may be the subject of complaints brought to the Washington Human Rights Commission or filed in court.

Summary of Bill:

The sunset date for the Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation (JCATI) is extended from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2030.

When determining industry partners, the JCATI is required to ensure aerospace firms and aerospace industry associations adhere to the values Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD).

The JCATI has the duty to terminate any relationship, or potential relationship, with an industry partner that has been found by the Office of the Attorney General to have violated the WLAD, unless the industry partner has: (1) fulfilled the conditions or obligations associated with any court order or settlement resulting from that violation; or (2) taken significant and meaningful steps to correct the violation, as determined by the Washington State Human Rights Commission.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.