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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2879**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** House Innovation, Technology & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Vick and Eslick)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to fostering economic growth in Washington by  
2 supporting in-state manufacturing; adding a new section to chapter  
3 44.04 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that manufacturing  
6 jobs are important to all regions of Washington because of their  
7 above-average wages and strong benefits. Manufacturing industries  
8 employ more than two hundred eighty-seven thousand people in  
9 Washington. Manufacturers help drive Washington's economy, producing  
10 more than fifty-eight billion dollars in goods annually and  
11 accounting for nearly twelve percent of the gross state product. More  
12 than eighty percent of Washington exports are manufactured goods. The  
13 legislature finds that due to a complex variety of factors from  
14 global competition, automation, regulatory factors, and productivity  
15 gains, this sector of the economy has had output growth without  
16 experiencing the desired employment growth during this cycle of  
17 economic growth for the country and our state. The legislature  
18 intends to investigate these factors and discuss with private sector  
19 partners the full spectrum of policy levers that could improve and  
20 sustain long-term job growth and regulatory certainty for this  
21 critical sector of our economy. Therefore, the legislature intends to

1 establish a time-limited legislative work group on manufacturing to  
2 be assisted by a private sector advisory group.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
6 specific purpose, the Washington manufacturing work group is  
7 established. The purpose of the work group is to promote economic  
8 development in every one of Washington's counties through a  
9 comprehensive assessment of policy recommendations that will lead to  
10 improvement in the regulatory conditions, infrastructure, and  
11 workforce development resources that support the growth and  
12 sustainability of the manufacturing sector.

13 (2) The legislative work group is composed of the following  
14 members:

15 (a) Two senators from each of the two largest caucuses of the  
16 senate, appointed by the leader of each respective caucus. Each  
17 leader shall appoint senators representing a district both west and  
18 east of the Cascade crest; and

19 (b) Two representatives from each of the two largest caucuses of  
20 the house of representatives, appointed by the leader of each  
21 respective caucus. Each leader shall appoint representatives  
22 representing a district both west and east of the Cascade crest.

23 (3) The work group must convene an advisory group of nonvoting  
24 members to provide information, assistance, and input to the work  
25 group in its development of policy recommendations as described in  
26 subsection (1) of this section. The chair of the work group shall  
27 appoint a statewide manufacturing trade association representative to  
28 the advisory group, who shall, in turn, appoint advisory group  
29 members who shall include, but not be limited to, members from each  
30 of the following industry subsectors:

- 31 (a) Aerospace manufacturing;
- 32 (b) Food manufacturing;
- 33 (c) Beverage manufacturing;
- 34 (d) Wood product manufacturing;
- 35 (e) Primary metal manufacturing;
- 36 (f) Machinery manufacturing;
- 37 (g) Computer and electronic product manufacturing;
- 38 (h) Furniture and related product manufacturing;
- 39 (i) Transportation equipment manufacturing;

1 (j) Chemical manufacturing;  
2 (k) Plastics and rubber products manufacturing;  
3 (l) Paper manufacturing;  
4 (m) Printing and related support activities;  
5 (n) Maritime manufacturing; and  
6 (o) Clean energy manufacturing.

7 (4) Nonvoting members of the advisory group should include a  
8 designee from the following:

9 (a) The department of commerce;  
10 (b) The department of revenue;  
11 (c) The department of ecology;  
12 (d) The department of labor and industries;  
13 (e) The employment security department;  
14 (f) The governor's senior policy staff;  
15 (g) The manufacturing extension partnership under the national  
16 institute of standards and technology if the designee is based in the  
17 state of Washington; and  
18 (h) The Washington state centers of excellence.

19 (5) A majority of the legislative work group members constitutes  
20 a quorum. If a member has not been designated for a position set  
21 forth in this section, that position may not be counted for the  
22 purpose of determining a quorum.

23 (6) The work group must hold its inaugural meeting by August 1,  
24 2020. The work group must elect a chair from among its members at the  
25 inaugural meeting. The election of the chair must be by a majority  
26 vote of the work group members who are present at the inaugural  
27 meeting. The chair of the work group is responsible for arranging  
28 subsequent meetings and developing meeting agendas.

29 (7) Staff support for the work group, including arranging the  
30 inaugural meeting of the work group and assisting the chair of the  
31 work group in arranging subsequent meetings, must be provided by the  
32 senate committee services and the house of representatives office of  
33 program research.

34 (8) The expenses of the work group must be paid jointly by the  
35 senate and house of representatives. Work group expenditures are  
36 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee  
37 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their  
38 successor committees.

1 (9) The work group is a class one group under chapter 43.03 RCW.  
2 Work group members may be reimbursed for travel expenses in  
3 accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

4 (10) Advisory group members are not entitled to be reimbursed for  
5 travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on  
6 behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization.  
7 Any reimbursement for advisory group members is subject to chapter  
8 43.03 RCW.

9 (11) A public comment period must be provided at every meeting of  
10 the work group.

11 (12) By November 30, 2021, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,  
12 the work group must submit a report on recommended policies that will  
13 facilitate the development of manufacturing in all of Washington  
14 state's counties. The report shall be delivered to the governor and  
15 the appropriate economic development committees of the legislature.

16 (13) This section expires August 1, 2022. The work group is  
17 dissolved upon the expiration of this section.

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