

E2SHB 2000 - S AMD 850
By Senator Stanford

ADOPTED 02/29/2024

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.290
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The office of international relations and protocol shall
6 develop a strategic international engagement plan to guide
7 Washington's international economic development and engagement
8 consistent with RCW 43.290.005. The plan must create a common
9 framework for the state's engagement in international activities, to
10 include: Trade missions, economic development, and interpersonal
11 knowledge, educational, and cultural exchanges.

12 (2) The office may consult with entities relevant to Washington's
13 international presence when developing the strategic plan, including:
14 Associate development organizations, business and civic
15 organizations, consular officials, executive and small cabinet
16 agencies, institutions of higher education, immigration and labor
17 organizations, public ports, state offices, state ethnic commissions,
18 and private and nonprofit organizations.

19 (3) The office may utilize the resources of Results Washington
20 for technical and operational assistance in developing the strategic
21 plan.

22 (4) The office must complete an initial strategic plan by July 1,
23 2025. This strategic plan shall undergo periodic review to measure
24 progress and outcomes at least every two and a half years thereafter,
25 and it shall be fully updated at least every five years thereafter.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.290.005 and 1991 c 24 s 1 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to create
29 an office of international relations and protocol in order to: Make
30 international relations and protocol (~~(a broad-based)~~) focused(~~(r)~~)
31 and functional (~~(part of)~~) across state government; provide

1 leadership in state government and assist the legislature and state
2 elected officials on international issues affecting the state;
3 establish coordinated methods for responding to foreign governments
4 and institutions seeking cooperative activities with and within
5 Washington; coordinate and improve communication and resource sharing
6 among various state offices, agencies, and educational institutions
7 with international programs; develop and promote state policies that
8 increase international ((literacy)) engagement and cross-cultural
9 understanding among Washington state's citizens; expand Washington
10 state's international cooperation role in such vital areas ((as the
11 environment, education, science, culture, and sports)) of public
12 policy as economic development, trade and industry, and tourism and
13 sports, as well as education, culture, science, and resilience;
14 ~~((establish coordinated methods for responding to the increasing~~
15 ~~number of inquiries by foreign governments and institutions seeking~~
16 ~~cooperative activities within Washington state; provide leadership in~~
17 ~~state government on international relations and assistance to the~~
18 ~~legislature and state elected officials on international issues~~
19 ~~affecting the state;)) and assist with multistate international~~
20 ~~efforts((; and coordinate and improve communication and resource~~
21 ~~sharing among various state offices, agencies, and educational~~
22 ~~institutions with international programs)).~~

23 It is the purpose of this chapter to bring these functions
24 together in a new office under the office of the governor in order to
25 establish a visible, coordinated, and comprehensive approach to
26 international relations and protocol.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.290.020 and 1991 c 24 s 4 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 The office of international relations and protocol may:

30 (1) Create ((temporary)) advisory committees as necessary to
31 ((deal with specific international issues)) execute its
32 responsibilities. The duration and composition of such advisory
33 committees may be determined by the office. Advisory committee
34 representation may include statewide elected officials from the
35 executive branch, or their designees, as well as representatives of
36 the legislative branch and the judiciary. Representation may also
37 include external organizations such as ((the Seattle consular
38 corps,)) world affairs councils, public ports, world trade
39 organizations, ((private nonprofit organizations dealing with

1 ~~international education or international environmental issues,~~
2 ~~organizations concerned with international understanding, businesses~~
3 ~~with experience in international relations, or other organizations~~
4 ~~deemed appropriate by the director)) associate development
5 organizations, business and civic organizations, consular officials,
6 executive and small cabinet agencies, institutions of higher
7 education, immigration and labor organizations, public ports, state
8 offices, and private and nonprofit organizations. The governor, or
9 the governor's designee, shall chair such advisory committees;~~

10 (2) In conjunction with the legislative committee on economic
11 development and international relations, designate foreign
12 jurisdictions, such as national governments, subnational governments,
13 and international organizations, as jurisdictions of strategic
14 importance to Washington;

15 (3) Establish procedures and requirements for operations and
16 expenditures to support and enhance state government partnership and
17 relationships with foreign jurisdictions, particularly those
18 identified as of strategic importance. Such operations and
19 expenditures are intended to strengthen state agency economic
20 development and policy cooperation, enable the implementation of the
21 strategic international engagement plan, as determined by the
22 director, and provide resources for government-to-government
23 engagement, as well as support of inbound and outbound delegations to
24 and from Washington state;

25 (4) Accept or request grants or gifts from citizens and other
26 private sources to be used to defray the costs of appropriate hosting
27 of foreign dignitaries, including appropriate gift-giving and
28 reciprocal gift-giving, or other activities of the office. The office
29 shall open and maintain a bank account into which it shall deposit
30 all money received under this subsection. Such money and the interest
31 accruing thereon shall not constitute public funds, shall be kept
32 segregated and apart from funds of the state, and shall not be
33 subject to appropriation or allotment by the state or subject to
34 chapter 43.88 RCW.

35 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.330.065 and 2023 c 470 s 2081 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 ~~((The department of commerce, in consultation with the office of~~
38 ~~protocol, the office of the secretary of state, the department of~~
39 ~~agriculture, and the employment security department[,])) (1) The~~

1 office of international relations and protocol and the legislative
2 committee on economic development and international relations, in
3 consultation with the department of commerce, the department of
4 agriculture, the office of the secretary of state, and other state
5 agencies and offices as appropriate, shall jointly identify up to
6 ((fifteen countries)) 15 foreign jurisdictions that are of strategic
7 importance to the development and diversification of Washington's
8 international trade relations.

9 (2) When designating such jurisdictions of strategic importance,
10 the office and committee shall consider factors including:

11 (a) Existing or potential partnerships in key industrial sectors;

12 (b) The presence of cultural and people-to-people ties;

13 (c) The state's economic development priorities and shared
14 interests, consistent with the state strategic international
15 engagement plan;

16 (d) The presence of international trade offices or other program-
17 based engagement conducted by state agencies; and

18 (e) Historic or existing bilateral agreements established on a
19 government-to-government basis.

20 (3) A foreign jurisdiction may not be designated as a
21 jurisdiction of strategic importance under this section if it is
22 currently subject to United States government sanctions for and has
23 been identified by the United States department of state as being
24 engaged in state-sponsored terrorism.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 43.290
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 The office of international relations and protocol shall:

28 (1) Advise and assist the governor, the legislature, and other
29 independently elected officials on international developments that
30 may affect the state;

31 (2) Establish and build government-to-government relationships
32 between the state, foreign governments, and international
33 organizations;

34 (3) Coordinate protocol for foreign dignitaries visiting the
35 governor, the legislature, the judiciary, and other state agencies
36 and offices, including the appropriate criteria and procedures for
37 the signing of bilateral agreements by the governor on behalf of the
38 state of Washington;

1 (4) Advise, coordinate, and support engagement between the state,
2 foreign governments, and international partners;

3 (5) Establish, in coordination with the office of the premier of
4 British Columbia, an intergovernmental exchange between the state and
5 British Columbia, cochaired by the governor and the premier of
6 British Columbia or their designees, concerning issues of mutual
7 interests;

8 (6) Designate an international engagement advisory committee to
9 leverage the expertise of the state's international engagement
10 community;

11 (7) Assist institutions of higher education in implementing
12 programs for international cooperation and student exchange; and

13 (8) Improve coordination between state government and the
14 Washington tourism marketing authority.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 A Washington state—British Columbia interparliamentary exchange
18 group is created. The purpose of the group is to facilitate
19 legislator-to-legislator communication between the two governments,
20 in coordination with the province of British Columbia. The state's
21 representative for the group is the chair of the legislative
22 committee on economic development and international relations.

23 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.15.050 and 2003 c 265 s 1 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 The legislative international trade account is created in the
26 custody of the state treasurer. All moneys received by the president
27 of the senate and the secretary of state from gifts, grants, and
28 endowments for international trade hosting, international relations,
29 and international missions activities must be deposited in the
30 account. Only private, nonpublic gifts, grants, and endowments may be
31 deposited in the account. A person, as defined in RCW 42.52.010, may
32 not donate, gift, grant, or endow more than five thousand dollars per
33 calendar year to the legislative international trade account.
34 Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of
35 international trade hosting, international relations, and
36 international trade mission activities, (~~excluding travel and~~
37 ~~lodging~~) in which the president and members of the senate, members
38 of the house of representatives, and the secretary of state

1 participate in an official capacity. An appropriation is not required
2 for expenditures. All requests by individual legislators for use of
3 funds from this account must be first approved by the secretary of
4 the senate for members of the senate or the chief clerk of the house
5 of representatives for members of the house of representatives. All
6 expenditures from the account shall be authorized by the final signed
7 approval of (~~the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the~~
8 ~~secretary of the senate, and~~) the president of the senate.

9 **Sec. 8.** RCW 43.15.060 and 2020 c 114 s 20 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) Economic development and in particular international trade,
12 tourism, and investment have become increasingly important to
13 Washington, affecting the state's employment, revenues, and general
14 economic well-being. Additionally, economic trends are rapidly
15 changing and the international marketplace has become increasingly
16 competitive as states and countries seek to improve and safeguard
17 their own economic well-being. The purpose of the legislative
18 committee on economic development and international relations is to
19 provide responsive and consistent involvement by the legislature in
20 economic development to maintain a healthy state economy and to
21 provide employment opportunities to Washington residents.

22 (2) There is created a legislative committee on economic
23 development and international relations which shall consist of
24 (~~six~~) eight senators and (~~six~~) eight representatives from the
25 legislature and the lieutenant governor who shall serve as
26 chairperson. The senate members of the committee shall be appointed
27 by the president of the senate and the house members of the committee
28 shall be appointed by the speaker of the house. Not more than
29 (~~three~~) four members from each house shall be from the same
30 political party. Vacancies occurring shall be filled by the
31 appointing authority.

32 **Sec. 9.** RCW 43.15.090 and 1985 c 467 s 23 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 The legislative committee on economic development and
35 international relations shall cooperate, act, and function with
36 legislative committees, executive agencies, and with the councils or
37 committees of other states and of provinces and territories of Canada

1 similar to this committee, and with other interstate research
2 organizations.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** RCW 43.330.065 is recodified as a section
4 in chapter 43.290 RCW."

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5 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "leadership;" strike the
6 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 43.290.005,
7 43.290.020, 43.330.065, 43.15.050, 43.15.060, and 43.15.090; adding
8 new sections to chapter 43.290 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
9 44.04 RCW; and recodifying RCW 43.330.065."

EFFECT: (1) Removes the prohibition on reimbursing travel and lodging expenses from the Legislative International Trade Account;

(2) Clarifies that a foreign jurisdiction may not be considered a "jurisdiction of strategic importance" if it is currently subject to United States government sanctions and has been identified by the United States Department of State as being engaged in state-sponsored terrorism;

(3) Adds educational and cultural exchanges to the international activities created in the strategic international engagement plan;

(4) Adds the state ethnic commissions to the list of entities that may be consulted with in developing the strategic international engagement plan;

(5) Removes "including but not limited to" in reference to the responsibilities of the OIRP;

(6) Adds the Office of the Secretary of State as an entity to be consulted with when determining the 15 foreign jurisdictions of strategic importance; and

(7) Increases legislative membership on LCEDIR from 12 to 16 legislators.

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