

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1783

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade, March 21, 2023
Ways & Means, April 3, 2023

Title: An act relating to supporting economic development in distressed areas through hiring of grant writers.

Brief Description: Supporting economic development in distressed areas through hiring of grant writers.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Sandlin, Maycumber, Couture, Chapman, Dent, Eslick and Volz).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/1/23, 96-0.

Committee Activity: Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade: 3/14/23, 3/21/23 [DP-WM].

Ways & Means: 3/31/23, 4/03/23 [DPA, w/oRec].

Brief Summary of Amended Bill

- Requires the Department of Commerce to establish a grant program to support associate development organizations in recruiting, hiring, and retention of grant writers.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, FINANCIAL SERVICES, GAMING & TRADE

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Stanford, Chair; Frame, Vice Chair; Dozier, Ranking Member; Boehnke, Gildon, Lovick, MacEwen and Mullet.

Staff: Kellee Gunn (786-7429)

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Rolfes, Chair; Robinson, Vice Chair, Operating & Revenue; Mullet, Vice Chair, Capital; Wilson, L., Ranking Member, Operating; Gildon, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating; Schoesler, Ranking Member, Capital; Rivers, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Boehnke, Braun, Conway, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Muzzall, Nguyen, Pedersen, Saldaña, Torres, Van De Wege, Wagoner and Wellman.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Warnick, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Billig.

Staff: Trevor Press (786-7446)

Background: Associate Development Organizations. Associate Development Organizations (ADOs) are under contract with the state to provide economic development services in the communities they represent. As part of their contracts, ADOs are required to submit annual performance reports to the Department of Commerce (Commerce), which Commerce compiles as a report and submits to the Legislature biennially.

The annual base funding an ADO receives from the state is dependent on local matching funds as well as whether the county served is a rural county. Funding is provided on a per capita basis. Commerce may consider an ADO's total resources when making contracting and fund allocation decisions.

The mission of an ADO is to further a county's or region's economic development goals. There are 34 ADOs serving all 39 counties.

Summary of Amended Bill: Subject to appropriation, by July 1, 2024, Commerce must establish a grant program to support ADOs in recruiting, hiring, and retention of grant writers. Commerce must award grants on an annual basis and must prioritize grants for distressed areas. ADOs must apply for the grant. Awardees must provide certain information on the use of the funds in the required annual report to Commerce.

Beginning December 31, 2026, Commerce must include the information received by the awardees in its biennial ADO report to the Legislature.

EFFECT OF WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT(S):

- Allows grant funding to be used for less than full-time grant writers.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade):

PRO: This bill authorizes Commerce to create a grant program for ADOs to hire full time grant writers to serve rural parts of the state. This bill will provide opportunities to areas that will get the largest benefit.

Persons Testifying (Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade): PRO: Representative Bryan Sandlin, Prime Sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade): No one.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Substitute House Bill (Ways & Means): *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* None.

Persons Testifying (Ways & Means): No one.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Ways & Means): No one.