
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5934

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Trade & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Warnick, and Chase)

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a joint legislative task force on
2 fostering innovation and retaining and creating jobs in Washington;
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the important
6 task of fostering the conditions for growing a vibrant economy in
7 Washington. Washington enjoys many benefits as a region that make it
8 a desirable location including a skilled workforce, world class
9 research institutions, strong and vibrant basic economic sectors, and
10 a diverse international trade sector. Washington competes in a global
11 economy, and many states and regions offer a variety of economic
12 incentives, infrastructure investments, workforce training, and other
13 tools to support business development to their region. Through the
14 establishment of a joint legislative task force, the legislature
15 intends to identify best practices for fostering an investment
16 ecosystem that grows local business and attracts new business
17 development in targeted high growth, high wage industries.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A legislative task force on middle
19 market business and retaining and creating jobs in Washington is
20 established, with eleven members appointed as follows:

1 (a) The president of the senate must appoint one member from each
2 of the two largest caucuses of the senate;

3 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives must appoint one
4 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
5 representatives;

6 (c) The director of the department of commerce or the director's
7 designee;

8 (d) A representative from an organization specializing in driving
9 middle market growth, appointed by the chair or cochairst;

10 (e) A representative from an organization representing Washington
11 manufacturers, appointed by the chair or cochairst;

12 (f) A representative of workforce development, appointed by the
13 chair or cochairst;

14 (g) A representative from a local economic development
15 organization, appointed by the chair or cochairst;

16 (h) A representative of the business community, appointed by the
17 chair or cochairst; and

18 (i) A representative of labor, appointed by the chair or
19 cochairst.

20 (2) The task force must:

21 (a) Choose a chair or cochairst from among its legislative
22 membership at its initial meeting. The initial meeting must be called
23 by agreement of a majority of the appointed members;

24 (b) Review current efforts to promote business expansion and job
25 retention and creation in Washington and compare those programs to
26 other states and regions to find best practices;

27 (c) Provide any recommendations identified by the task force that
28 involve statutory changes, funding recommendations, or administrative
29 action to the legislature. If statutory changes are recommended, the
30 task force must provide the recommendations in the form of draft
31 legislation. Task force recommendations require the approval of a
32 majority of the appointed members;

33 (d) Ensure that the task force provides ample opportunity for
34 input from interested stakeholders including basic industry leaders
35 in supply chains and market expansion.

36 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
37 committee services and the office of program research. The department
38 of commerce, and other relevant state agencies identified by the task
39 force during the course of its work, must cooperate with the task

1 force and provide information and assistance at the request of the
2 task force.

3 (4) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
4 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

5 (5) Task force expenditures are subject to approval by the senate
6 facilities and operations committee and the house of representatives
7 executive rules committee, or their successor committees.

8 (6) The task force must provide recommendations, if any, to the
9 appropriate legislative committees, as described under subsection
10 (2)(c) of this section and consistent with RCW 43.01.036 by November
11 1, 2015.

12 (7) This section expires June 30, 2016.

--- END ---