

LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

**Coordinating Workforce and Economic Development**

**Statement of Need**

Governor Gregoire’s *The Next Washington* presents an action plan for “Growing Jobs and Income in a Global Economy” and among its three components are education and skills—“the most important investment we can make in our economic future.” *The Next Washington* calls for improving partnerships among workforce and economic development efforts at the state and regional levels. Subsequently, Governor Gregoire called upon the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board), the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED), and the Economic Development Commission (WEDC) to “develop a plan to support coordination at the state and regional levels, with a special emphasis on key economic clusters.” Based on Governor Gregoire’s direction and many discussions with key stakeholders, this legislation proposes statutory amendments that create a framework for coordinating workforce and economic development at the state and local levels focusing on a cluster-based approach.

**Summary of Legislation**

The proposed statutory amendments would create clarity and consistency in workforce and economic development terms, improve coordination of workforce and economic development initiatives, and focus investments on cluster-based approaches by:

1. Correcting terminology by replacing “cluster” with “sector” where sector is the intended meaning and clarifying the economic development and cluster focus of the competitive grant program to further regional cluster growth. Amending a statutory definition for “industry cluster” to include other entities such as government and education, consistent with the common definitions. In 2007 the Governor’s Policy Office convened a group of stakeholders to develop common definitions for workforce and economic development terms. The definitions for “industry cluster” and “sector” are from that workgroup. This statute is under the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (see RCW 43.330.090)
2. Providing for the inclusion of labor market analysis for the purposes of identifying industry clusters that meet the criteria established by the Workforce Board and the Economic Development Commission. This statute is under the Employment Security Department (see RCW 50.38.050).
3. Adding a new section to establish Centers of Excellence under the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (see RCW 28B.050)
4. Providing a statutory definition of Workforce Development Council in a statute under the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (see RCW 28C. 18).

5. Providing direction for the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to work with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development and the Economic Development Commission on industry clusters in a statute under the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (see RCW 28C. 18.060).
6. Providing for the inclusion of industry clusters in the state plan for workforce development in a statute under the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (see RCW 28C. 18.080).
7. Adding a new section to establish workforce development council planning responsibilities in statute including coordinating with associate development organizations and assistance to clusters in a statute under the Workforce Board (see RCW 28C.18).
8. Providing for the inclusion of clusters in the state economic development plan, and consultation with the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and inclusion of labor market and economic information from the Employment Security Department in identifying clusters in a statute under the Economic Development Commission (see RCW 43.162.020).
9. Providing for the inclusion of industry clusters and coordination with workforce development councils by associate development organizations in a statute under the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (see RCW 43.330.080).

**Agencies Affected** *(for contact information and position please see Stakeholders, below)*

Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development  
 Department of Health and Social Services  
 Economic Development Commission  
 Employment Security Department  
 State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
 Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

**Stakeholders Affected**

<u>Stakeholder Organization</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Association of Washington Business		Mike Hudson	360-943-1600
Community, Trade and Economic Development		Julie Anderson	360-725-4029
Department of Health and Social Services	Support	Lynnae Ruttledge	360-725.3610
Employment Security Department	Support	Amy Leneker	360-902-9314
State Board for Community & Technical Colleges	Support	Jim Crabbe	360-704-4333
Washington Economic Development Association		Kristin Crowe	425-967-0736
Washington Economic Development Commission		Egils Milbergs	360- 725-2750
Washington Public Ports Association	Support	Ginger Eagle	360-943-0760
Washington State Labor Council		Lori Province	206-351-2956
Workforce Development Councils	No Position	Tim Probst	360-693-6362