

LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE –
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

I. 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. 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. 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 under the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (see RCW 43.330.090).
4. Adding a new section to establish Centers of Excellence under the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (see RCW 28B.050)
5. Providing a statutory definition of Workforce Development Council in a statute under the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (see RCW 28C. 18).

6. 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).
7. 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).
8. 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).
9. 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).
10. 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:

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

Summary of Stakeholder Positions

Employment Security Department

The Employment Security Department (ESD) supports An Act Related to Coordinating Workforce and Economic Development (draft dated September 5, 2008). ESD supports the concept that efforts at the state and local levels must be well coordinated to ensure a skilled workforce and competitive business climate. ESD also supports clarifying the definition and role of industry clusters in workforce and economic development. This legislation is consistent with ESD's goals to improve state and local coordination of workforce and economic development to better serve workers and employers. The department is able to meet requirements as outlined in the legislation.

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is supportive of the draft legislation which advances the cluster approach to workforce and economic development in the state. It will enhance the collaboration and cohesive approach to the states efforts, and make it clear to all stakeholders that this will be an enduring strategy worthy of investment.

To be completed for:

Community, Trade and Economic Development
Department of Health and Social Services
Economic Development Commission
Association of Washington Business
Washington Economic Development Association
Washington Public Ports Association
Washington State Labor Council
Washington Workforce Association

Staff Contacts:

Carolyn McKinnon, Legislative Liaison/Policy Analyst, (360) 753-5661,
cmckinnon@wtb.wa.gov

Bryan Wilson, Deputy Director, (360) 753-0891 bwilson@wtb.wa.gov

Terry Ryan, Assistant Attorney General, Terry Ryan (360) 586-0727 terryr1@atg.wa.gov

Code Reviser Draft: See enclosed Z-0173 draft bill

Fiscal Note: The Workforce Board will prepare a fiscal note indicating there is no fiscal impact.