
HOUSE BILL 1170

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Boehnke and Paul

1 AN ACT Relating to building economic strength through
2 manufacturing; and adding new sections to chapter 43.330 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
5 Washington BEST manufacturing act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** It is the intent of the legislature that
7 Washington state be home to the largest per capita share of workers
8 involved in the manufacturing and research and development sectors of
9 any state in the United States on a consistent basis by 2030. The
10 legislature finds that a thriving research and production sector are
11 complimentary and should be promoted in every region of the state.
12 The legislature finds this is critical to provide a strong, resilient
13 tax base for good schools, safe streets, and community optimism.
14 Therefore, the legislature intends to build institutional capacity,
15 such as well-equipped and staffed skill centers and research and
16 manufacturing industrial councils, in state government and every
17 geographic region of the state to achieve the goal of being
18 universally recognized as the best state in the nation for both
19 manufacturing and research and development.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department is responsible for
2 implementing the state's goal to consistently have the highest share
3 of workforce involved in manufacturing and research and development
4 occupations of any state in the United States. The department is
5 responsible for building capacity in every region of the state to
6 allow any person who wants to do so to learn the skills to enter into
7 the manufacturing or research and development field and find abundant
8 local employment opportunities in those fields.

9 (2) Each fiscal biennium, the department must convene
10 stakeholders in manufacturing and research and development for the
11 purpose of compiling a report to the legislature on the performance
12 to date in attainment of the goal in subsection (1) of this section
13 and to identify any public policy obstacles hindering advancement
14 toward the goal. The biennial report must provide recommendations to
15 the legislature. All state agencies are directed to provide such
16 expertise, information, and resources as requested by the
17 stakeholders to facilitate identification and analysis of public
18 policy problems and potential recommendations.

19 (3) The department shall establish permanent regional offices to
20 be staffed with a lead coordinator. The responsibilities of the lead
21 coordinator in each region include, but are not limited to:

22 (a) Establishing a research and manufacturing industrial council
23 comprised of private sector, not-for-profit, and public sector
24 leaders;

25 (b) Identifying local skill centers and fostering the appropriate
26 expansion of existing skill centers or creation of additional
27 capacity; and

28 (c) Promoting and fostering skilled trade learning programs that
29 connect students of all ages, teachers, and employers.

30 (4) The department shall coordinate with the office of the
31 superintendent of public instruction and the state board for
32 community and technical colleges to assess any inadequacy or gaps in
33 delivering hands-on, skills-based learning remotely to all
34 Washingtonians seeking to enter the manufacturing workforce or to be
35 retrained for a transition within the manufacturing workforce. The
36 department shall convene stakeholders to obtain information about
37 experiences of lost opportunity during the COVID-19 pandemic related
38 to workforce training that resulted from closures or limitations at
39 on-site and in-person training facilities. The department shall
40 provide a report to the legislature with any recommendations on how

1 Washington can be the world leader in best practices for delivering
2 remote learning opportunities adapted to the manufacturing workplace.

3 (5) The department shall report to the legislature by December
4 31, 2021, on the feasibility of forming both a state manufacturing
5 office and a state research and development office within the
6 department, akin to the current state energy office created under
7 chapter 43.21F RCW, for the purpose of being home to appropriate
8 expertise, leadership, and coordination of effort to support the
9 attainment of the goal under subsection (1) of this section.

10 (6) For so long as the department retains a key sector focus
11 organization for economic development purposes, it shall employ a
12 sector lead for general manufacturing, and a sector lead for research
13 and development.

14 (7) In pursuit of the goal in subsection (1) of this section, the
15 department may expend resources to feature and promote a particular
16 innovation, product, or industry subclassification. The department
17 may not discriminate against or fail to use best efforts on behalf of
18 any lawful manufacturing or research and development activity that
19 seeks to employ Washingtonians.

20 (8) The department must submit reports required under this
21 section, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate
22 committees of the legislature.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each
24 added to chapter 43.330 RCW and codified with the subchapter heading
25 of "MANUFACTURING AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR PROMOTION."

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