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**HOUSE BILL 1879**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By Representative Ryu; by request of Secretary of State**

1 AN ACT Relating to providing Washington state convention economy  
2 grants; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1. FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—WASHINGTON**  
5 **STATE CONVENTION ECONOMY GRANTS**

6 The sum of \$5,000,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
7 appropriated for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2023, from the  
8 coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund—state appropriation to the  
9 department of commerce for the purposes of this section.

10 The appropriation in this section is subject to the following  
11 conditions and limitations:

12 (1) The appropriation is provided solely for the department of  
13 commerce to provide additional grants to assist businesses registered  
14 with the department of revenue as provided in RCW 82.32.030 that are  
15 dependent on the economic activity created through conventions hosted  
16 in Washington state to maintain their operations. To be eligible for  
17 a grant under this subsection, the business must:

18 (a) Apply for or have applied for the grant;

19 (b) Have reported annual gross receipts of \$100,000,000 or less  
20 to the department of revenue for calendar year 2019;

1 (c) Have expenses that are necessary to continue business  
2 operations and the expense is not a federal, state, or local tax,  
3 fee, license, or other government revenue;

4 (d) Self-attest that the expense is not funded by any other  
5 government or private entity;

6 (e) Have experienced a reduction in business income or activity  
7 related to COVID-19 or state or local actions in response to  
8 COVID-19;

9 (f) Have met one or more of the following criteria:

10 (i) Hosted a convention in Washington;

11 (ii) Have a business that provided support services to  
12 conventions to Washington; or

13 (iii) Have a business that depends on the function of conventions  
14 to sell goods and services in Washington state; and

15 (g) Agree to operate in accordance with the requirements of  
16 applicable federal, state, and local public health guidance and  
17 directives.

18 (2)(a) Eligible businesses may receive up to a \$500,000 grant for  
19 revenue lost due to a cancellation or a reduction of participants in  
20 a convention hosted in Washington state in 2020 or 2021.

21 (b) Eligible participants must provide the department of commerce  
22 with: (i) Financial records from 2019 that can provide a basis for  
23 revenue received from convention activity in Washington state prior  
24 to the COVID-19 outbreak; and (ii) financial records from 2020 and  
25 2021 that show a reduction in gross revenue received from convention  
26 activity in Washington state during the COVID-19 outbreak.

27 (c) Eligible businesses must provide financial records related to  
28 any grants or loans from federal and state government programs during  
29 2020 through 2022.

30 (d) The grant award shall equal the loss in revenue between 2019  
31 and 2020, less grants or loans from federal and state government  
32 programs, and is not to exceed \$500,000.

33 (e) If a business received one or more working Washington small  
34 business grants, the grant awarded under this section must be reduced  
35 to reflect the amounts received from previous working Washington  
36 small business grants.

37 (3) Nonprofit organizations may be eligible to receive funding  
38 under subsection (1) or (2) of this section if they have a primary

1 business activity that has been impacted as described in subsection  
2 (1)(e) of this section.

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