
HOUSE BILL 2153

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Chase and Kenney

Read first time 02/11/09. Referred to Committee on Community & Economic Development & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington's economic gardening program; and
2 adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The college board may develop criteria and provide oversight
7 and policy guidance for an entrepreneurial program known as
8 "Washington's economic gardening." The purpose of the program is to
9 facilitate and coordinate a network of public and private resources to
10 provide assistance, training, and mentoring to small and medium-sized
11 businesses in Washington. The program may be newly developed or be
12 part of an existing program.

13 (2) A community college board of trustees may choose to host and/or
14 participate in a Washington's economic gardening program. Each such
15 community college program shall be governed by a board of directors,
16 with membership as follows:

17 (a) Representatives of small and medium-sized businesses, including
18 their business associations, networks, or consortia, which
19 representatives must comprise a majority of the board of directors;

1 (b) At least one member representing the community college board of
2 trustees;

3 (c) At least one member representing labor unions or labor
4 councils;

5 (d) A representative of the state board for community and technical
6 colleges; and

7 (e) A representative of the workforce training and education
8 coordinating board.

9 (3) In furtherance of a community college's Washington's economic
10 gardening program:

11 (a) The community college board of trustees shall:

12 (i) Serve as the convening organization to organize the program and
13 provide for selection of a board of directors; and

14 (ii) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated, or made
15 available under (b) of this subsection, for this specific purpose,
16 provide administrative support for the program;

17 (b) With approval from the college board and the community college
18 board of trustees, the board of directors may set fees to be charged
19 for program services, make and execute contracts with any individual,
20 corporation, association, public agency, or any other entity, and
21 employ all other legal instruments necessary or convenient for the
22 performance of its duties and the exercise of its powers and functions
23 under the program; and

24 (c) The college board may accept, use, and expend or dispose of
25 fees and contributions of money, services, or property from federal,
26 state, or local governments, private businesses, foundations, or other
27 sources for purposes consistent with this section. All such moneys
28 received by the college board for the program must be deposited in an
29 account at a depository approved by the state treasurer. Only the
30 college board or a duly authorized representative thereof may authorize
31 expenditures for this account. The account is subject in all respects
32 to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit
33 expenditure of moneys in the account.

34 (4) A Washington's economic gardening program may:

35 (a) Develop policies, plans, and programs for any or all of the
36 following:

37 (i) Assisting small and medium-sized Washington businesses to find

1 appropriate resources for improving business management, product
2 development, marketing and sales, strategic planning, and business
3 financing;

4 (ii) Developing training programs and career pathways that target
5 innovative industries or technology fields; and

6 (iii) Developing entrepreneurial training, for new and expanding
7 small and medium-sized businesses, that may include but is not limited
8 to classroom instruction, counseling and mentoring, and marketing
9 laboratories on-site through the community college or off-site through
10 community partnerships;

11 (b) Collaborate with state and local governments, institutions of
12 higher education, business organizations, economic development
13 organizations, and organizations such as the Washington manufacturing
14 services to integrate entrepreneurial resources for small and medium-
15 sized businesses; and

16 (c) Serve as an information clearinghouse for small and medium-
17 sized businesses regarding opportunities available under the
18 Washington's economic gardening program and other similar programs.

19 (5) The college board must submit a progress report on the
20 Washington's economic gardening program to the governor and the
21 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2010.

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