
HOUSE BILL 2528

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Tarleton, Smith, Morris, and Harmsworth

1 AN ACT Relating to the reorganization and streamlining of
2 economic development-related committees; adding a new chapter to
3 Title 44 RCW; and repealing RCW 43.15.060, 43.15.065, 43.15.070,
4 43.15.075, 43.15.080, 43.15.085, 43.15.090, 44.55.010, 44.55.020,
5 44.55.030, 44.55.040, 44.55.050, and 44.55.060.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Economic development and in particular
8 trade and international relations continue to be important to
9 Washington and affect the state's employment, revenues, and general
10 economic well-being. Additionally, economic trends are rapidly
11 changing and the international marketplace has become increasingly
12 competitive as states and countries seek to improve and safeguard
13 their own economic well-being. The purpose of the joint legislative
14 oversight committee on economic development, trade policy, and
15 international relations is to streamline the state's economic
16 development, trade, and international relations efforts and more
17 efficiently use tax payer dollars by consolidating the legislative
18 committee on economic development and international relations and the
19 joint legislative oversight committee on trade policy. The
20 legislature finds that this is the most efficient and effective
21 method to continue responsive and consistent involvement by the

1 legislature in economic development to maintain a healthy state
2 economy and to provide employment opportunities to Washington
3 residents.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint legislative oversight
5 committee on economic development, trade policy, and international
6 relations is created, to consist of six senators and six
7 representatives from the legislature and the lieutenant governor who
8 shall serve as chair. The senate members of the committee shall be
9 appointed by the president of the senate and the house of
10 representatives members of the committee shall be appointed by the
11 speaker of the house of representatives. Senate appointments must
12 include three members from each of the largest two caucuses; each of
13 whom must sit on the senate economic development committee. Two
14 members from the senate must be the chair and ranking minority
15 members of the senate economic development committee. House
16 appointments must include three members from each of the largest two
17 caucuses; each of whom must sit on the house economic development
18 committee. Two members from the house must be the chair and ranking
19 minority members of the house economic development committee. During
20 odd-numbered years, the house of representatives economic development
21 committee chair shall serve as first vice chair and the senate
22 economic development committee chair shall serve as second vice
23 chair. During even-numbered years, the senate economic development
24 committee chair shall serve as first vice chair and the house
25 economic development committee chair shall serve as second vice
26 chair.

27 (2) The chair and vice chairs of the committee must jointly
28 prepare meeting agendas. Meeting agendas must be approved by a
29 majority of the committee before publishing the agenda. Electronic
30 approval is permitted.

31 (3) A list of appointees must be submitted before the close of
32 each regular legislative session during an odd-numbered year or any
33 successive special session convened by the governor or the
34 legislature before the close of such regular session or successive
35 special sessions for confirmation of senate members, by the senate,
36 and house of representatives members, by the house of
37 representatives. A list reinstating or appointing new committee
38 members for the first year of the committee shall be submitted by

1 July 1, 2016. Vacancies occurring shall be filled by the appointing
2 authority.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The committee shall by majority vote
4 establish subcommittees, and prescribe rules of procedure consistent
5 with this chapter for itself and its subcommittees. The committee
6 shall at a minimum establish subcommittees on economic development
7 and international trade.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The committee must meet at least once per
9 year. The committee or its subcommittees are authorized to study and
10 review economic development, trade policy, and international
11 relations issues to assist the legislature in developing a
12 comprehensive and consistent economic development policy. The issues
13 under review and tasks of the committee shall include, but are not
14 limited to:

15 (1) Evaluating existing state policies, laws, and programs that
16 promote or affect economic development and determine their cost-
17 effectiveness and level of cooperation with other public and private
18 agencies. The evaluation process must include review of milestones in
19 existing state policies, laws, and programs;

20 (2) Monitoring economic development policies, laws, and programs
21 of other states and nations, evaluating the effectiveness of their
22 nascent economic development clusters, and developing for review by
23 the legislature such appropriate state responses as may be deemed
24 effective and appropriate. Nascent economic clusters of focus must
25 include, but are not limited to, the aerospace, clean technology,
26 information/communications technology, life science and global
27 health, maritime, and military and defense sectors;

28 (3) Hearing public testimony and reporting to the legislative
29 economic development committees on the actual and potential impacts
30 of international trade agreements and negotiations on Washington
31 state. The committee must also submit an annual report to the state
32 trade representative's office and to the legislature providing
33 recommendations on state support based on findings from the public
34 testimony. The annual report must also include an assessment of the
35 impacts of international trade agreements upon Washington and
36 notification of any new international agreements impacting Washington
37 state;

1 (4) Providing guidance to the legislature on economic
2 development, trade, and international relations strategies and
3 performance milestones to implement, including use of milestones
4 recommended or used by Washington state's international trade offices
5 and consultants;

6 (5) Examining any aspects of international trade, international
7 economic integration, and trade agreements that the members deem
8 appropriate;

9 (6) Assessing the need for and effect of federal, regional, and
10 state cooperation in economic development policies and programs;

11 (7) Maintaining active communication with the state trade
12 representative's office, the United States trade representative's
13 office, Washington's congressional delegation, the national
14 conference of state legislatures, and any other bodies the committee
15 deems appropriate regarding ongoing developments in international
16 trade agreements and policy; and

17 (8) Developing and evaluating legislative proposals concerning
18 the issues specified in this section.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The committee shall receive the
20 necessary staff support from both the senate and house of
21 representatives staff resources.

22 (2) The members of the committee shall serve without additional
23 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses, in
24 accordance with RCW 44.04.120, incurred while attending sessions of
25 the committee or meetings of any subcommittee of the committee, while
26 engaged on other committee business authorized by the committee, and
27 while going to and coming from committee sessions or committee
28 meetings.

29 (3) All expenses incurred by the committee, including salaries
30 and expenses of employees, shall be paid upon voucher forms as
31 provided by the auditor and signed by the chair or first vice chair
32 of the committee and attested by the secretary of the committee, and
33 the authority of the chair and secretary to sign vouchers shall
34 continue until their successors are selected after each ensuing
35 session of the legislature. Vouchers may be drawn on funds
36 appropriated generally by the legislature for legislative expenses or
37 upon any special appropriation which may be provided by the
38 legislature for the expenses of the committee or both.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The committee shall cooperate, act, and
2 function with legislative committees, executive agencies, and with
3 the councils or committees of other states similar to this committee
4 and with other interstate research organizations.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The following acts or parts of acts are
6 each repealed:

7 (1) RCW 43.15.060 (Legislative committee on economic development
8 and international relations—Purpose—Created—Membership) and 2003 c
9 347 s 1 & 1985 c 467 s 17;

10 (2) RCW 43.15.065 (Legislative committee on economic development
11 and international relations—Subcommittees—Rules of procedure) and
12 1985 c 467 s 18;

13 (3) RCW 43.15.070 (Legislative committee on economic development
14 and international relations—Powers—Study and review of economic
15 issues) and 1985 c 467 s 19;

16 (4) RCW 43.15.075 (Legislative committee on economic development
17 and international relations—Staff support) and 1985 c 467 s 20;

18 (5) RCW 43.15.080 (Legislative committee on economic development
19 and international relations—Travel expenses) and 1985 c 467 s 21;

20 (6) RCW 43.15.085 (Legislative committee on economic development
21 and international relations—Expenses) and 1985 c 467 s 22;

22 (7) RCW 43.15.090 (Legislative committee on economic development
23 and international relations—Cooperation with committees, agencies,
24 and councils) and 1985 c 467 s 23;

25 (8) RCW 44.55.010 (Findings—Intent) and 2003 c 404 s 1;

26 (9) RCW 44.55.020 (Committee membership) and 2003 c 404 s 2;

27 (10) RCW 44.55.030 (Chair—Officers—Rules) and 2003 c 404 s 3;

28 (11) RCW 44.55.040 (Powers, duties) and 2003 c 404 s 4;

29 (12) RCW 44.55.050 (Staff support) and 2003 c 404 s 5; and

30 (13) RCW 44.55.060 (Compensation) and 2003 c 404 s 6.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act
32 constitute a new chapter in Title 44 RCW.

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