
SENATE BILL 6018

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen

Read first time 02/13/09. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to significantly increasing telework in Washington
2 through the establishment of a statewide telework program; and adding
3 a new section to chapter 47.01 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The secretary shall work with the Washington State University
8 extension's division of governmental studies and services to develop a
9 statewide telework program. The department shall serve as the program
10 administrator, and Washington State University extension shall serve as
11 the program manager. The purpose of the statewide telework program is
12 to promote, assist, and provide research to accelerate the use of
13 telework in Washington state. The goals of the program are to: (a)
14 Improve the effectiveness of our transportation system; (b) decrease
15 greenhouse gas emissions; and (c) enhance our state's competitiveness
16 in the global economy.

17 (2) The duties of the program include, but are not limited to, the
18 following:

1 (a) Promote telework in Washington state as an important economic
2 development, transportation, and environmental strategy through
3 presentations, publications, employer seminars, industry events, and
4 executive briefings;

5 (b) Alert industry, government, and nonprofit leaders to the
6 availability of statewide resources and telework support;

7 (c) Develop and maintain a comprehensive set of telework resources,
8 including ongoing enhancement of the online toolkit developed during
9 the Kitsap telework pilot project, best practices and case studies,
10 research, and news, as well as establish and maintain connections to
11 telework activities, resources, and leaders in Washington state and
12 across the country;

13 (d) Implement the community template developed during the Kitsap
14 telework pilot project to enable local and regional governments,
15 transit agencies, and other organizations to institute telework
16 efforts;

17 (e) Offer a suite of services to assist employers and communities
18 in meeting the range of telework needs, from limited assistance in
19 using the online toolkit to technical assistance, such as assessment,
20 program and policy development, and training;

21 (f) Secure expertise to support statewide and local telework
22 initiatives;

23 (g) Coordinate telework efforts across the state through
24 collaboration and communication in order to share resources and lessons
25 learned while avoiding costly duplication of efforts and
26 inconsistencies; and

27 (h) Conduct telework research to identify current telework use and
28 business benefits, barriers to implementation, employer needs related
29 to program development and expansion, impacts on organizational
30 culture, transportation, and the environment, as well as opportunities
31 related to technology, economic development, and telecenter
32 establishment and use.

33 (3) The program must report biennially to the transportation
34 committees of the legislature on the progress of the program in meeting
35 goals and duties provided in this section. By December 2010, the
36 program must evaluate and make recommendations on strategies to further

1 telework expansion, including how the state should be organized most
2 effectively to support telework activities.

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