

February 13, 1997

BILL ANALYSIS

TO: Members, Committee on Trade and Economic Development

FROM: Kenny Pittman, Research Analyst (786-7392)

RE: **HB 1495 - Assisting in the development of alternative trade organizations.**

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (Department) works to help stimulate the expansion and diversification of the state's economy. The department assist businesses and organizations increase international trade opportunities by expanding export markets for Washington products and developing new markets for service firms and manufacturers in Washington's key sectors.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development is directed to provide technical assistance in the development of Alternative Trade Organizations (ATO). An ATO is a nonprofit organization that links state and national markets to products produced by low-income artisans and farmers in other countries.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.