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SENATE BILL 6706

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2010 Regular Session

By Senators Murray, Delvin, Kastama, Shin, Marr, Kilmer, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/22/10.              Referred to Committee on Economic  
Development, Trade & Innovation.

1            AN ACT Relating to commercialization of research at state  
2 universities; amending RCW 42.52.160; and adding new sections to  
3 chapter 28B.63 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 28B.63 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7            (1) The mission of the state universities includes commercializing  
8 research that benefits the intermediate and long-term economic vitality  
9 of Washington and developing and strengthening university-industry  
10 relationships through the conduct of research, support of company  
11 formation and job creation, and engagement in state economic  
12 development programs. The state universities must:

13            (a) Provide collaborative research and technology transfer  
14 opportunities;

15            (b) Publicize their commercialization processes and include an  
16 explanation of how to access commercialization resources at the  
17 university;

18            (c) Develop mechanisms for pairing researchers, entrepreneurs, and  
19 investors, which includes, but is not limited to:

- 1 (i) Developing a funding resource guide;
- 2 (ii) Offering workshops on how to access financing for  
3 commercializing new technologies;
- 4 (iii) Providing opportunities for novice investors to learn about  
5 investing in companies developed using university-based research;
- 6 (iv) Hosting events to connect researchers, entrepreneurs, and  
7 investors; and
- 8 (v) Maintaining an interactive web site accessible by researchers,  
9 entrepreneurs, and investors;
- 10 (d) Provide opportunities for training undergraduate and graduate  
11 students through direct involvement in research and industry  
12 interactions; and
- 13 (e) Conduct forums for interaction and collaboration between  
14 individuals from the state's technology-based industries and its  
15 academic institutions.
- 16 (2) In carrying out the duties in this section, the universities  
17 may work with and through the higher education coordinating board.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.63 RCW  
19 to read as follows:

20 To facilitate the creation of companies based on university  
21 research, the state universities are authorized to establish and  
22 administer bridge-funding programs for start-up companies using funds  
23 from the federal government and the private sector.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 42.52.160 and 1996 c 213 s 7 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 (1) No state officer or state employee may employ or use any  
27 person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official  
28 control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the  
29 private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

30 (2) This section does not prohibit the use of public resources to  
31 benefit others as part of a state officer's or state employee's  
32 official duties.

33 (3) University research employees may use public resources to  
34 facilitate the formation of companies using university-based research.

35 (4) The appropriate ethics boards may adopt rules providing

1 exceptions to this section for occasional use of the state officer or  
2 state employee, of de minimis cost and value, if the activity does not  
3 result in interference with the proper performance of public duties.

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