
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6015

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Murray, Delvin, and Marr)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to the director of commercialization and innovation
2 within the office of the governor; adding a new chapter to Title 43
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Washington state is fortunate to have a
6 dynamic technology industry sector that benefits from vibrant global
7 demand for its output and which helps drive the Washington state
8 economy. Washington state is uniquely positioned to shape its future
9 success in innovation in the technology sectors of life sciences and
10 high tech. Nearly every state in the nation is competing to develop a
11 strong innovation economy. Washington has the fertile ground in world-
12 class research, entrepreneurial spirit and talent, an actively
13 collaborative community, and an existing foundational sector.

14 (2) To leverage its potential, the state must actively work to
15 create and ensure a supportive environment that enables entrepreneurial
16 people and companies to convert their innovative ideas into marketable
17 new products and services. Providing such an environment would:

18 (a) Solidify Washington state as a global hotbed of knowledge and
19 technology commercialization;

1 (b) Create more highly rewarding and well-paying careers for
2 Washington's citizens;

3 (c) Grow more companies in new and far reaching markets;

4 (d) Renew traditional industries through value added technology
5 adaptation; and

6 (e) Generate solid returns for Washington state.

7 (3) In order for Washington to focus on strengthening and growing
8 Washington's innovation economy, a position should be established that
9 advises the governor on how best to direct state government activities
10 aimed to promote and grow innovation in the development and
11 commercialization of proprietary technology in life sciences, such as
12 medical devices and biotechnology, including biofuels and alternative
13 clean energy; and information technology, including hardware, software,
14 internet infrastructure, that address high potential emerging and
15 growing markets.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is hereby created the position of the
17 director of commercialization and innovation within the office of the
18 governor for the purposes of advising the governor on how best to
19 promote innovation in the development and commercialization of
20 proprietary technology, consistent with the Washington innovation
21 economy, the state's comprehensive economic development plan.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The director of commercialization and
23 innovation shall:

24 (1) Investigate targeted investment strategies to advance
25 commercialization and innovation at the preseed and seed stage of
26 companies in Washington state;

27 (2) Establish relationships and serve as a liaison to
28 representatives from the life sciences and technology communities to
29 governmental and business entities, including life science trade and
30 technology trade associations;

31 (3) Monitor and mitigate state policies, bills, and fiscal affairs
32 as related to life sciences and technology innovation to insure
33 competitive growth of the industry;

34 (4) Work with the Washington economic development commission to
35 align the following with the state's comprehensive economic development
36 plan:

1 (a) Overall strategies and direction of state government activities
2 related to the life sciences and technology innovation;

3 (b) The state's technology-based economic development efforts,
4 making sure the necessary infrastructure is in place to assist
5 companies at every stage of the business life cycle; and

6 (c) Technology transfer and commercialization from the state's
7 public research universities;

8 (5) Chart the course for strategy implementation, tactics, and
9 setting high expectations for continuous high tech business and
10 employee growth in Washington state;

11 (6) Advise the governor on how best to lead the effort to position
12 the state as the national leader in commercialization of technology
13 innovation, life sciences, and emerging companies including advice on
14 political and community relations strategies to help public and private
15 decision makers better understand the needs of the industry;

16 (7) Conduct market analysis and competitive review; and

17 (8) Collaborate with industry representatives and others to
18 increase the amount of local or regional investment capital available
19 for early stage investments in Washington companies.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director of commercialization and
21 innovation shall report on the work and accomplishments of the office
22 and advise and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature
23 annually. The initial report to the governor and the legislature shall
24 be made by December 1, 2009, and there shall be annual reports by
25 December 1st each year thereafter.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
27 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
29 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
30 June 30, 2009, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
31 void.

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