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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5387

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kastama, Kilmer, Kauffman and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting economic development through  
2 commercialization of technologies; and amending RCW 28B.20.297.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.20.297 and 2005 c 357 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that small technology-based firms are the  
7 source of approximately one-half of the economy's major innovations  
8 ~~((and that))~~. The legislature further finds that economic development  
9 in the state is increasingly driven by innovative firms and that it is  
10 in the interest of the state to:

11 (a) Increase participation by Washington state small businesses in  
12 the federal small business innovation research program by assisting  
13 them in becoming small business innovation research program grant  
14 recipients((-

15 ~~The legislature further finds that many small business innovators~~  
16 ~~lack the grant writing skills necessary to prepare a successful small~~  
17 ~~business innovation research program proposal, and the federal program~~  
18 ~~that funded grant writing assistance has stopped operations. Nearly~~

1 ~~fifty percent of small businesses trained under the federal program won~~  
2 ~~grants compared to less than ten percent of those that did not receive~~  
3 ~~training));~~

4 (b) Increase the number of innovative firms that understand and  
5 engage in the technology commercialization process by providing  
6 information resources and technical assistance in accessing new  
7 technologies;

8 (c) Increase funding for product development and production by  
9 providing information on available finance options and facilitating the  
10 matching of investors with innovative entrepreneurs; and

11 (d) Coordinate these commercialization, assistance, and information  
12 functions through existing statewide organizations and reinforce  
13 collaboration among the network of the state's research, economic  
14 development and technology assistance organizations for this purpose.

15 (2) As used in this section:

16 (a) "Small business innovation research program" means the program,  
17 enacted pursuant to the small business innovation development act of  
18 1982, P.L. 97-219, that provided funds to small businesses to conduct  
19 innovative research having commercial application.

20 (b) "Small business" means a corporation, partnership, sole  
21 proprietorship, or individual, operating a business for profit, with  
22 two hundred fifty employees or fewer, including employees employed in  
23 a subsidiary or affiliated corporation, that otherwise meets the  
24 requirements of the federal small business innovation research program.

25 (3) To the extent funds are appropriated for these purposes, the  
26 Washington technology center shall provide or contract for the  
27 provision of the following in conjunction with the state's public  
28 universities and colleges, private and federal research laboratories,  
29 and local and regional economic development and technology assistance  
30 organizations:

31 (a) Establish a small business innovation research assistance  
32 program, including a proposal review process, to train and assist  
33 Washington small businesses to win phase I small business innovation  
34 research program awards. ((+a)) In operating the program the  
35 Washington technology center shall give priority to first-time small  
36 business innovation research program applicants, new businesses, and  
37 firms with fewer than ten employees((-));

1       (b) Develop and disseminate a guide to the technology  
2 commercialization process in the research and academic institutions in  
3 the state;

4       (c) Develop, maintain, and provide access to a database of  
5 technologies and inventions developed in the state available for  
6 commercialization and licensing;

7       (d) Offer training on the provision of commercialization assistance  
8 to technical assistance providers at the state's small business  
9 development centers, economic development councils, chambers of  
10 commerce, industry cluster associations, the Washington manufacturing  
11 service, and private consulting firms;

12       (e) Develop a funding resource guide, offer workshops on how to  
13 access financing for commercializing new technologies, provide  
14 opportunities for novice investors to learn about investing in  
15 technology-based companies, host events to connect entrepreneurs and  
16 investors, and maintain an interactive web site accessible by  
17 researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors; and

18       (f) Report on the impact of commercialization activities at  
19 Washington research institutions on an annual basis.

20       (4) The Washington technology center may charge a fee for ((this  
21 service)) its services.

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