
SENATE BILL 6078

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Rivers, Hatfield, Brown, Mullet, Litzow, and Becker

Read first time 03/05/15. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating manufacturing partnerships; and
2 adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that new
5 approaches are needed to plan the way economic development occurs in
6 the manufacturing sectors of this state. The concept of manufacturing
7 business ecosystems has emerged as the focus of economic development
8 in manufacturing sectors, including regional economic communities of
9 interacting organizations and individuals who produce and consume
10 goods and services in a specified region. Manufacturing business
11 ecosystems include suppliers, lead producers, competitors, investors,
12 consumers, and other stakeholders.

13 (2) Over time, manufacturing business ecosystems evolve as
14 members share capabilities and resources and align objectives.
15 Manufacturing business ecosystems enable regions of similar focus and
16 interests to share visions, align investments, and provide mutually
17 supportive roles that benefit the entire region, resulting in job
18 creation and maintenance, leverage of advantages and opportunities,
19 coordination of research and commercialization, acceleration of new
20 technologies across manufacturing industries, growth of small and

1 medium-sized businesses, collaborative development of public
2 infrastructure, and increased access to capital.

3 (3) Providing legislative support to the efforts of manufacturing
4 business ecosystems and designating an entity to unify efforts,
5 provide oversight, and leverage regional resources and strengths, are
6 appropriate and innovative means of moving forward with manufacturing
7 economic development in Washington.

8 (4)(a) There has been extensive progress towards creating a
9 manufacturing business ecosystem, called the Pacific Northwest
10 manufacturing partnership, in the southwest part of the state of
11 Washington and the geographic region located within the Willamette
12 Valley and the Columbia river corridor in Oregon. The partnership was
13 formed in response to a federal initiative known as the investing in
14 manufacturing communities partnership program in the United States
15 economic development administration, which aims to accelerate the
16 resurgence of manufacturing in the United States. The federal
17 initiative seeks to encourage communities to develop comprehensive
18 economic development strategies and best practices that will
19 strengthen the communities' competitive edge for attracting global
20 manufacturer and supply chain investments. The partnership will make
21 application to the federal initiative program for a federal
22 designation as a manufacturing community in accordance with the
23 program requirements and geographical limitations. The partnership is
24 an example of the type of business ecosystem that this state should
25 encourage and support, and may serve as a model for future
26 partnerships for manufacturing economic development in other regions
27 of this state and the Pacific Northwest.

28 (b) The central Puget Sound's aerospace manufacturing sector has
29 recently been designated as an investing in manufacturing communities
30 partnership program to implement a comprehensive economic development
31 strategy to strengthen their competitive edge for attracting global
32 manufacturer and supply chain investments.

33 (c) The department must work with other regions of the state to
34 develop manufacturing business ecosystems suitable for their
35 geographic area.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
37 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
38 otherwise.

39 (1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

1 (2) "Geographic region" means the following regions and counties:

2 (a) Washington's aerospace region including Grant, Clallam, King,
3 Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties and the Spokane metropolitan
4 statistical area including portions of Pend Oreille, Stevens, and
5 Spokane counties.

6 (b) Mid-Columbia Valley, comprising Hood River, Sherman, and
7 Wasco counties in the state of Oregon and Klickitat county in the
8 state of Washington.

9 (c) Portland and Vancouver metro, comprising Clackamas, Columbia,
10 Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties in the state of Oregon
11 and Clark and Skamania counties in the state of Washington.

12 (d) South central Washington region including, but not limited
13 to, Benton, Franklin, Yakima, Grant, and Walla Walla counties.

14 (e) North Puget Sound region including, but not limited to,
15 Skagit, Whatcom, and Island counties.

16 (f) South Puget Sound including, but not limited to Thurston,
17 Pierce, and Lewis counties.

18 (g) Olympic and coastal region including, but not limited to,
19 Mason, Jefferson, Clallam, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties.

20 (3) "Manufacturing economic development" means economic
21 development in manufacturing sectors, including but not limited to
22 manufacturing activities related to aerospace, primary metals, wood
23 products, semiconductors, electronics, medical devices, food
24 processing, technological inputs, and machinery.

25 (4) "Partnership" means the Pacific Northwest manufacturing
26 partnership, or a manufacturing community established under section 2
27 of this act, consisting of a collaborative alliance of governmental
28 agencies, educational institutions, manufacturing firms and
29 associations, research facilities, workforce boards, labor
30 organizations, and manufacturing economic development entities that
31 has been established in geographic regions in this state for the
32 purpose of:

33 (a) Integrating knowledge, innovation, research, technology,
34 science, industry, resources, and priorities for manufacturing
35 economic development in the geographic regions; and

36 (b) Enhancing the geographic regions' capacity as manufacturing
37 business ecosystems.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1)(a) The department may appoint a
39 Pacific Northwest manufacturing partnership advisory committee to

1 advise and make recommendations to the department regarding the
2 Pacific Northwest manufacturing partnership and manufacturing
3 economic development in this state.

4 (b) The department may appoint an advisory committee in other
5 geographic regions of the state seeking to establish a manufacturing
6 community partnership.

7 (2) The advisory committee, if appointed, must advise and make
8 recommendations to the department regarding the following:

9 (a) Goals and objectives of the partnership;

10 (b) Policies, practices, and procedures for the operation of the
11 partnership, including but not limited to the following:

12 (i) The manner in which members will convene and communicate to
13 further the partnership's goals and objectives;

14 (ii) The establishment of advisory and standing committees to
15 accomplish discrete goals or objectives of the partnership and
16 prescribing the manner in which committees will report on
17 recommendations to the partnership and the department;

18 (iii) Determining the distribution of responsibilities, including
19 financial responsibilities, among members of the partnership;

20 (iv) Creating protocols for conflict avoidance and conflict
21 resolution to resolve competing interests; and

22 (v) Resolving any other issues of governance structure that arise
23 in carrying out the goals and objectives of the partnership;

24 (c) Making grants or loans, or providing other financial or
25 technical assistance, to individuals and entities that have made
26 application for assistance or submitted proposals for manufacturing
27 economic development projects that will further the goals and
28 objectives of the partnership;

29 (d) Establishing guidelines and standards for manufacturing
30 economic development projects that will receive financial and
31 technical assistance from the partnership, including applicant
32 eligibility requirements;

33 (e) Developing outcome measures and other means for evaluating
34 the progress or success of manufacturing economic development
35 projects that have been funded, supported, or undertaken by the
36 partnership;

37 (f) Identifying statistical compilation and other research
38 endeavors that would assist the partnership to achieve its goals and
39 objectives;

1 (g) Coordinating efforts and expertise of members, identifying
2 research that is needed to further the goals and objectives of the
3 partnership, aligning resources and projects and providing other
4 leadership that will maximize return on investments in the
5 geographical region represented by the partnership; and

6 (h) Creating a web site for the partnership that will provide
7 information about the goals, objectives, purposes, and projects of
8 the partnership.

9 (3) The director must appoint members to the advisory committee
10 so as to reflect the geographic regions described in section 2 of
11 this act.

12 (4) The department must provide staff support to the advisory
13 committee.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department must facilitate
15 regional collaboration among manufacturing economic development
16 stakeholders through consultation with and support from the
17 manufacturing partnership in the geographic regions represented by
18 the partnership by:

19 (a) Providing financial assistance to businesses, programs, and
20 entities engaged in manufacturing economic development that are
21 working in collaboration with, or with the financial or technical
22 assistance of, the partnership;

23 (b) Identifying and recruiting qualified investors and other
24 sources of capital to support members of the partnership or
25 manufacturing economic development projects identified by the
26 partnership that are eligible for financial or technical assistance;
27 and

28 (c) Entering into contracts and agreements with institutions of
29 higher education, research facilities, economic development entities,
30 and other manufacturing economic development entities for the purpose
31 of supporting the goals and objectives of the partnership.

32 (2) The department must act on behalf of the partnership to apply
33 or submit proposals for any federal funds, at the request of the
34 partnership, that the partnership and the department determine will
35 assist the partnership to achieve its goals and objectives, including
36 but not limited to funding available to designated manufacturing
37 communities through the investing in manufacturing communities
38 partnership program in the United States economic development
39 administration. The department may accept and enter into any

1 contracts or agreements on behalf of the partnership for the receipt
2 of the funds from the federal government or its agencies.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If the department appoints a manufacturing
4 partnership advisory committee, in each year that the advisory
5 committee is active, the department and the advisory committee must
6 report, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, to the committees of the
7 legislature related to business and economic development regarding
8 the implementation of this chapter, beginning January 1, 2017.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act
10 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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