
HOUSE BILL 2596

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Boehnke, Kloba, Slatter, and Entenman

1 AN ACT Relating to fostering economic growth in Washington by
2 supporting emerging businesses in the new space economy; and creating
3 new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to develop and
6 implement an economic development strategy to promote the new space
7 economy and broaden the geographic distribution of employment and
8 training opportunities in that sector. The current space economy is
9 valued at hundreds of billions of dollars, and market analysts advise
10 that a trillion dollar space economy is imminent. The legislature
11 declares its objective that Washington state pursue as much of this
12 economic opportunity as possible. The legislature intends for
13 Washington state to compete aggressively for any federal dollars
14 appropriated in support of civilian opportunities and military
15 missions related to the new space economy.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of commerce, in
17 consultation with the leaders of the technology committees of the
18 legislature, is directed to seek applications for and convene an
19 advisory committee to provide information, advice, and assistance in
20 completing a study of public policies that would foster the new space

1 economy and the geographic distribution of employment and training
2 opportunities in that sector.

3 (2) The study shall, among other components, include:

4 (a) A ten-year strategy for a bold expansion of trained workforce
5 to support that industry sector;

6 (b) An evaluation of the state's capacity to: (i) Train personnel
7 in the cybersecurity protocols needed for civilian businesses to
8 secure national defense contracts; and (ii) offer grants and
9 incentives to businesses for the purpose of lowering the ongoing cost
10 of cybersecurity compliance;

11 (c) An evaluation of the state's capacity to provide technical
12 assistance and mentoring to start-up and emerging businesses
13 competing for national defense contracts;

14 (d) An evaluation of the state's level of investment in federal
15 lobbying or federal liaison services related to securing defense and
16 civilian space-related appropriations and procurement through which
17 Washington might bolster its local workforce or facilities and
18 thereby provide indirect and induced benefits for the larger state
19 economy;

20 (e) An assessment of the infrastructure needs to support the new
21 space sector; and

22 (f) An assessment of the institutional capacity of state agencies
23 and nonprofit organizations to foster economic growth in the new
24 space sector.

25 (3) By October 31, 2021, the results of the study required in
26 this section must be submitted in a report to the appropriate
27 committees of the legislature consistent with the requirements of RCW
28 43.01.036. The study must be accompanied by recommendations that
29 include the identification of short-term and long-term action plans
30 for the legislature to support and sustain a bold vision for economic
31 growth in the new space sector.

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