
SENATE BILL 6472

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session

By Senators Bluechel, Gaspard, McDonald, Matson and Cantu

Read first time 02/03/92. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington technology center; amending RCW
2 28B.20.285; and adding new sections to chapter 28B.20 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW
6 28B.20.285 and sections 3 through 6 of this act.

7 (1) "Technology center" means the Washington technology center,
8 including the staff, faculty, facilities, and research centers operated
9 by the technology center.

10 (2) "Board" means the board of directors of the Washington
11 technology center.

12 (3) "High technology" or "technology" includes but is not limited
13 to the modernization, miniaturization, integration, and computerization
14 of electronic, hydraulic, pneumatic, laser, mechanical, robotics,

1 nuclear, chemical, telecommunication, and other technological
2 applications to enhance productivity in areas including but not limited
3 to manufacturing, communications, medicine, bioengineering, and
4 commerce.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.20.285 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 72 s 11 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 A Washington (~~(high technology)~~) technology center is created (~~(at~~
8 ~~the University of Washington. The Washington high technology center~~
9 ~~shall provide: (1) An interdisciplinary program to support major high-~~
10 ~~technology education and research initiatives within the state; (2) the~~
11 ~~resources necessary for research and development programs in high~~
12 ~~technology; (3) quality training for advanced undergraduate and~~
13 ~~graduate students in high technology; and (4) interdisciplinary~~
14 ~~approaches to instruction and research in high technology fields.~~

15 The Washington high technology center shall be administered by the
16 board of regents with the advice of the high technology coordinating
17 board. The University of Washington shall make the facilities of the
18 Washington high technology center available to other institutions of
19 higher education when specific program needs so require)) to be a
20 collaborative effort between the state's colleges and universities,
21 private industry, and government. The technology center shall be
22 headquartered at the University of Washington. The mission of the
23 technology center shall be to perform and commercialize research on a
24 state-wide basis that benefits the intermediate and long-term economic
25 vitality of the state of Washington, and to develop and strengthen
26 university-industry relationships through the conduct of research that
27 is primarily of interest to Washington-based companies or state
28 economic development programs. The technology center shall:

1 (1) Perform research supportive of state science and technology
2 objectives, particularly as they relate to state industries;

3 (2) Provide leading edge collaborative research and technology
4 transfer opportunities primarily to state industries;

5 (3) Provide substantial opportunities for educating and training
6 undergraduate and graduate students through direct involvement in
7 research and industry interactions;

8 (4) Emphasize and develop nonstate support of the technology
9 center's research activities; and

10 (5) Provide a forum for effective interaction between the state's
11 technology-based industries and its academic research institutions
12 through promotion of faculty collaboration with industry, particularly
13 within the state.

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The technology center shall be
15 administered by the board of directors of the technology center.

16 (2) The board shall consist of the following members: Fourteen
17 members from among individuals who are associated with or employed by
18 technology-based industries and have broad business experience and an
19 understanding of high technology; eight members from the state's
20 universities with graduate science and engineering programs; one member
21 representing the state's regional universities; the executive director
22 of the Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute; the
23 provost of the University of Washington; and the director of the state
24 department of trade and economic development. The term of office for
25 each board member, excluding the executive director of the Spokane
26 Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute, the provost of the
27 University of Washington, and the director of the state department of
28 trade and economic development, shall be three years. The executive
29 director of the technology center shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting

1 member of the board. The board shall meet at least quarterly. Board
2 members shall be appointed by the governor based on the recommendations
3 of the existing board of the technology center, the research
4 universities, and the high technology industry.

5 (3) The duties of the board include:

6 (a) Developing the general operating policies for the technology
7 center;

8 (b) Appointing the executive director of the technology center;

9 (c) Approving the annual operating budget of the technology center;

10 (d) Establishing priorities for the selection and funding of
11 research projects that guarantee the greatest potential return on the
12 state's investment;

13 (e) Approving and allocating funding for research projects
14 conducted by the technology center, based on the recommendations of the
15 advisory committees for each of the research centers;

16 (f) In cooperation with the department of trade and economic
17 development, developing a biennial work plan and five-year strategic
18 plan for the technology center that are consistent with the state-wide
19 technology development and commercialization goals;

20 (g) Coordinating with the University of Washington and Washington
21 State University in the development of education, training, research,
22 and development programs to be conducted at the technology center that
23 shall be targeted to meet industrial needs;

24 (h) Assisting the department of trade and economic development in
25 the department's efforts to develop state science and technology public
26 policies and coordinate publicly funded programs;

27 (i) Reviewing annual progress reports on funded research projects
28 that are prepared by the advisory committees for each of the research
29 centers;

1 (j) Providing an annual report to the governor and the legislature
2 detailing the activities and performance of the technology center; and

3 (k) Contracting with the department of trade and economic
4 development regarding expenditure of state-appropriated funds.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The University of Washington and
6 Washington State University shall provide the staff, faculty, and
7 facilities required to support the operation of the technology center.

8 (2) Professors involved in research projects at the technology
9 center shall be credited for their participation in the projects when
10 these individuals are considered for promotion, salary adjustments, and
11 tenure. Patent work shall receive the same consideration as publishing
12 in academic or professional journals.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department of trade and economic
14 development shall contract with and provide guidance to the technology
15 center regarding expenditure of state-appropriated funds. The director
16 of the department of trade and economic development shall not withhold
17 funds appropriated for the technology center if the technology center
18 complies with the provisions of its contract with the department of
19 trade and economic development.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The facilities of the technology center
21 shall be available to other institutions of higher education if
22 specific program needs so require.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 and 3 through 6 of this act
24 are each added to chapter 28B.20 RCW.