
SENATE BILL 5673

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Erwin, M. Rasmussen and Skratek

Read first time 02/08/93. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to telecommuting; adding new sections to chapter
2 70.94 RCW; creating a new section; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that
5 telecommunications technologies and services can be used cost-
6 effectively to substitute for travel in many business applications.
7 The use of telecommunications can reduce the cost of building or
8 renting office space, help reduce highway congestion, reduce energy
9 use, improve air quality, and allow information intensive jobs to be
10 located outside urban areas. The legislature further finds that state
11 government can benefit from increased substitution of
12 telecommunications services for travel, and can provide effective
13 technical assistance to other government sectors and private sector
14 firms wishing to expand their use of telecommuting and telecommuting
15 work centers.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
17 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 3
18 through 5 of this act.

1 (1) "Telecommuting" means the use of telecommunications services
2 and technologies to allow a worker to perform regular work tasks at a
3 location other than his or her usual worksite.

4 (2) "Telecommuting work center" means a facility equipped to allow
5 a number of workers to telecommute. These workers may be from
6 different organizations.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall survey state office
8 facilities to develop an inventory of unused office space that could be
9 used for individual telecommuters or telecommuting work centers. The
10 department shall also develop an assessment of how much office space
11 could be saved over time by implementation of an extensive
12 telecommuting program, and shall ensure that state facilities are
13 designed to incorporate telecommuting applications. In developing the
14 inventory and assessment, the department shall consult with the
15 department of information services and the Washington state energy
16 office.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall establish at least one
18 telecommuting work center for use by state agencies by July 1, 1994.
19 If available space is not filled by state agencies, the department may
20 make space available to local and federal government agencies. In
21 developing the telecommuting work center, the department shall consult
22 with the department of information services and the Washington state
23 energy office.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall report to the
25 legislature by January 1, 1994, on the feasibility of locating a state
26 office facility with at least fifty employees in a distressed area,
27 using telecommunications technologies and services to provide effective
28 integration of activities with the central office. Activities the
29 department should consider for remote location include, but are not
30 limited to, claims processing, information services, customer service,
31 and licensing and registration. In developing the feasibility study,
32 the department shall consult with the department of trade and economic
33 development, the department of information services, and the Washington
34 state energy office.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The Washington state energy office shall
2 establish a telecommuting technical assistance program to assist
3 government agencies and private sector businesses seeking to implement
4 telecommuting programs.

5 For the purposes of this section, "telecommuting" shall have the
6 same meaning as set forth in section 2 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,
8 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
9 biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the air pollution control account
10 in the general fund to the department of general administration for the
11 purposes of carrying out sections 2 through 6 of this act.

12 (2) The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be
13 necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from
14 the air pollution control account in the general fund to the state
15 energy office for the purposes of carrying out sections 2 through 6 of
16 this act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act are each
18 added to chapter 70.94 RCW.

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