



# Manufacturing Innovation Sunset Review: *Legislature Should Allow Unused Program to Expire*

Proposed Final Report  
Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee  
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*John Woolley, JLARC Staff*

## Sunset Statutes Require JLARC to Review MIMES Program



### **“Washington Manufacturing Innovation and Modernization Extension Service Program” (MIMES)**

Created in 2008 to provide small manufacturers (100 or fewer employees) with a **voucher** to pay for services such as: strategic planning, business development, and supply chain management

### **Set to expire June 30, 2012**

Absent specific action by Legislature

### **Recommendation:**

Allow the Program to expire because it isn't used

## Sunset Statutes Require JLARC to Respond to Four Questions



### Does the Program:

Comply with Legislative intent?

No, because program has not been used.

Operate efficiently?

Could not assess, because program has not been used.

Meet its performance goals and targets?

Could not assess, because program has not been used.

Duplicate services?

No, but some possible overlap with programs providing general assistance to WA businesses

## Possible Reasons Why Manufacturers Haven't Used the MIMES Program



### Department of Commerce

Required application process for a voucher may have made it “unattractive relative to some other types of personal and commercial small business loans such as credit cards and personal lines-of-credit.”

### State's one qualified service provider

Additional reasons may include lower bank interest rates and the availability of grants with little out-of-pocket costs to the manufacturer.

## Recommendation: Allow Expiration



Legislation that created the MIMES Program became law on June 12, 2008. Since that time, no manufacturer has used the Program.

The Legislature should allow the Washington Manufacturing Innovation and Modernization Extension Service Program to expire.

Department of Commerce: Concur  
OFM: No formal response

## Contact Information



Elisabeth Donner  
360-786-5190  
elisabeth.donner@leg.wa.gov  
www.jlarc.leg.wa.gov