

CHAPTER 20

[Second Substitute House Bill No. 226]

EXPORT ASSISTANCE CENTER—EXPORT TRANSACTION FINANCING ASSISTANCE—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DUTIES—APPROPRIATION

AN ACT Relating to exports; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation. 2

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds:

(1) The exporting of goods and services from Washington to international markets is an important stimulus to the growth and stability of many businesses, and the economic activities associated with exporting make an important contribution to the economic well-being of the state.

(2) Impediments to the entry of many small and medium-sized businesses into export markets have restricted growth in exports from the state.

(3) Particularly significant impediments are the lack of easily accessible information about export opportunities and export financing alternatives, and the limited availability of export financing at reasonable costs from conventional financing sources for many small and medium-sized businesses.

(4) There is a need for an export assistance center which will specialize in providing assistance to small and medium-sized businesses throughout the state in the financing of export transactions and in acquiring information about export opportunities.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A nonprofit corporation, to be known as the export assistance center, and branches subject to its authority, may be formed under chapter 24.03 RCW for the following public purposes:

(1) To assist small and medium-sized businesses in the financing of export transactions.

(2) To provide, singly or in conjunction with other organizations, information to these businesses about export opportunities and export financing alternatives.

(3) To provide information to and assist those businesses interested in exporting products, including the opportunities available to them in organizing export trading companies under the United States export trading company act of 1982, for the purpose of increasing their comparative sales volume and ability to export their products to foreign markets.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The export assistance center and its branches shall be governed and managed by a board of eleven directors appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The directors shall serve terms of six years except that two of the original directors shall serve for two years and two of the original directors shall serve for four years. The directors

may provide for the payment of their expenses. The directors shall include a representative of a not-for-profit corporation formed for the purpose of facilitating economic development, a representative of a financial institution engaged in the financing of export transactions, a representative of a port district, a representative of the governor, and four representatives of businesses: (a) One representative from the area west of Puget Sound, (b) one representative from the area east of Puget Sound and west of the Cascade range, (c) one representative from the area east of the Cascade range and west of the Columbia river, and (d) one representative from the area east of the Columbia river. One of the directors shall be a representative of the public selected from the area in the state west of the Cascade mountain range and one director shall be a representative of the public selected from that area of the state east of the Cascade mountain range. One director shall be a representative of the public at large. The directors shall be broadly representative of geographic areas of the state, and the three representatives of businesses shall represent four different industries in different sized businesses as follows: (a) One representative of a company employing fewer than one hundred persons; (b) one representative of a company employing between one hundred and five hundred persons; and (c) two representatives of companies employing more than five hundred persons. Any vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the unexpired term. Upon expiration of the terms of each of the original directors, the governor shall appoint directors for six-year terms.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) The export assistance center formed under sections 2 and 3 of this act shall have the powers granted under chapter 24.03 RCW. In exercising such powers, the center may:

(a) Solicit and accept grants, contributions, and any other financial assistance from the federal government, federal agencies, and any other sources to carry out its purposes;

(b) Make loans to businesses with annual sales of twenty-five million dollars or less for the purpose of financing exports of goods or services by those businesses to buyers in foreign countries. Loans by an export assistance center under this chapter shall not compete with nor be a substitute for available loans by a bank or other financial institution and shall only be considered upon a financial institution's assurance that such loan is not available;

(c) Provide loan guarantees on loans made by financial institutions to businesses with annual sales of one hundred million dollars or less for the purpose of financing exports of goods or services by those businesses to buyers in foreign countries;

(d) Establish and regulate the terms and conditions of any such loans and loan guarantees and charges for interest and services connected therewith; and

(e) Take whatever action may be necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this chapter.

(2) The center may not use any Washington state funds or funds which come from the public treasury of the state of Washington to make loans or to make any payment under a loan guarantee agreement. Under no circumstances may the center use any funds received under section 5 of this act to make or assist in making any loan or to pay or assist in paying any amount under a loan guarantee agreement. Debts of the center shall be center debts only and may be satisfied only from the resources of the center. The state of Washington shall not in any way be liable for such debts.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. The export assistance center formed under sections 2 and 3 of this act is eligible to receive consideration for a contract under this chapter from the department of commerce and economic development or its statutory successor. The contract shall require the center to provide export assistance services and may not have a duration of longer than two years. The center, including its branch, for the biennium ending June 30, 1985, may not have more than one contract with the department of commerce and economic development or its statutory successor.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. The department of commerce and economic development or its statutory successor shall adopt rules under chapter 34.04 RCW as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. The director of commerce and economic development or its statutory successor shall: (a) Report to the governor and the legislature before October 1, 1985, concerning the contract made with the export assistance center under this chapter during the 1983-85 biennium, and the operations and activities of the export assistance center during that period; and (b) make a report to the export assistance center by September 1, 1983, and at least annually thereafter as to products and services the department or its statutory successor has been able to identify and has targeted as those products and services which are sought by foreign markets. Upon request the department or its statutory successor shall furnish a copy of its report to the export assistance center to any interested party.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. There is appropriated from the general fund to the department of commerce and economic development or its statutory successor for the biennium ending June 30, 1985, the sum of two hundred six thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purpose of entering into a contract with the export assistance center and one branch. The department of commerce and economic development or its statutory successor may be eligible for future appropriations as the legislature may provide for the purpose of entering into a new contract with the export assistance center and any branches established by the center after the biennium ending June 30, 1985.

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

Passed the House May 5, 1983.

Passed the Senate May 4, 1983.

Approved by the Governor May 13, 1983.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 13, 1983.

CHAPTER 21

[Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 231]

JOB SKILLS PROGRAM

AN ACT Relating to vocational education; amending section 4, chapter 174, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. and RCW 28C.04.040; adding new sections to chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and to chapter 28C.04 RCW; and making an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature declares that it is an important function of government to increase opportunities for gainful employment, to assist in promoting a productive and expanding economy, and to encourage the flow of business and industry support to educational institutions. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is in the public interest of the state to encourage and facilitate the formation of cooperative relationships between business and industry and educational institutions which provide for the development and significant expansion of programs of skills training and education consistent with employment needs and to make interested individuals aware of the employment opportunities presented thereby. It is the policy of the state of Washington to ensure that programs of skill training are available on a regional basis and are utilized by a variety of businesses and industries.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 28C.04.040 and sections 4 through 10 of this act.

(1) "Applicant" means an educational institution which has made application for a job skills grant under sections 4 through 10 of this act.

(2) "Business and industry" means a private corporation, institution, firm, person, group, or association concerned with commerce, trades, manufacturing, or the provision of services within the state, or a public or non-profit hospital licensed by the department of social and health services.

(3) "Educational institution" means a public secondary or post secondary institution or an independent institution within the state authorized by law to provide a program of skills training or education beyond the secondary school level. Any educational institution receiving a job skills grant under sections 4 through 10 of this 1983 act shall be free of sectarian control or influence as set forth in Article IX, section 4 of the state Constitution.