

Office of State Trade Representative

This Act creates the office of state trade representative in the office of the governor. The state trade representative shall:

- Work with the department of community, trade, and economic development, the department of agriculture, and other appropriate state agencies, and within the agencies' existing resources, to review and analyze proposed and enacted international trade agreements and provide an assessment of the impact of the proposed or enacted agreement on businesses and firms;
- Provide input office of the United States trade representative concerning the development of international trade, commodity, and direct investment policies that reflect the concerns of the state;
- Serve as liaison to the legislature on matters of trade policy oversight including, but not limited to, updates to the legislature regarding the status of trade negotiations, trade litigation, and the impacts of trade policy on state businesses;
- Work with the international trade division of the department of community, trade, and economic development and the international marketing program of the state department of agriculture to develop a statewide strategy designed to increase the export of state goods and services, particularly goods and services from small and medium-sized businesses; and
- Conduct other activities the governor deems necessary to promote international trade and foreign investment within the state.

Submitted as:

Washington

Chapter 346 of 2003

Status: Enacted into law in 2003.

Suggested State Legislation

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act may be cited as “An Act to Create the Office of State
2 Trade Representative.”

3
4 Section 2. [*Legislative Findings.*]

5 (1) The [legislature] finds that:

6 (a) The expansion of international trade is vital to the overall growth of the [state]
7 economy;

8 (b) The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General
9 Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) highlight the increased importance of international
10 trade opportunities to the United States and this state;

11 (d) The passage of NAFTA and GATT will have a major impact on the state's
12 [agriculture, aerospace, computer software, and textiles and apparel sectors];

13 (e) There is a need to strengthen and coordinate the state's activities in promoting
14 and developing its [agricultural, manufacturing, and service industries] overseas, especially for
15 small and medium-sized businesses, and minority and women-owned business enterprises; and

16 (f) The importance of having a coherent vision for advancing the state's interest in
17 the global economy has rarely been so consequential as it is now.

18 (2) The [legislature] declares that the purpose of the [office of state trade representative] is
19 to:

- 20 (a) Strengthen and expand the state's activities in marketing its goods and services
21 overseas;
- 22 (b) Review and analyze proposed international trade agreements to assess their
23 impact on goods and services produced by businesses throughout the state; and
- 24 (c) Inform the [legislature] about ongoing trade negotiations, trade development,
25 and the possible impacts on the state economy.

26
27 Section 3. [*Office of State Trade Representative Created.*]

28 (1) The [office of the state trade representative] is created in the [office of the governor].
29 The [office of the state trade representative] shall serve as the state's official liaison with foreign
30 governments on trade matters.

31 (2) The [office of the state trade representative] may accept or request grants or gifts from
32 citizens and other private sources to be used to defray the costs of appropriate hosting of foreign
33 dignitaries, including appropriate gift-giving and reciprocal gift-giving, or other activities of the
34 office. The office shall open and maintain a bank account into which it shall deposit all money
35 received under this section. Such money and the interest accruing thereon shall not constitute
36 public funds, shall be kept segregated and apart from funds of the state, and shall not be subject
37 to appropriation or allotment by the state or subject to [insert citation]

38 (3) The office shall:

39 (a) Work with the [department of community, trade, and economic development],
40 the [department of agriculture], and other appropriate state agencies to review and analyze
41 proposed and enacted international trade agreements and provide an assessment of the impact of
42 the proposed or enacted agreement on companies doing business in this state;

43 (b) Provide input to the Office of the United States Trade Representative in the
44 development of international trade, commodity, and direct investment policies that reflect the
45 concerns of this state;

46 (c) Serve as liaison to the [legislature] on matters of trade policy oversight
47 including, but not limited to, updates to the [legislature] regarding the status of trade
48 negotiations, trade litigation, and the impacts of trade policy on state businesses;

49 (d) Work with the [international trade division of the department of community,
50 trade, and economic development] and the [international marketing program of the state
51 department of agriculture] to develop a statewide strategy designed to increase the export of
52 goods and services produced in this state, and particularly goods and services from small and
53 medium-sized businesses; and

54 (e) Conduct other activities the [governor] deems necessary to promote
55 international trade and foreign investment within the state.

56
57 Section 4. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

58
59 Section 5. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

60
61 Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]