SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5269

As of January 17, 2023

Title: An act relating to transforming and growing Washington state manufacturing.

Brief Description: Concerning Washington state manufacturing.

Sponsors: Senators Shewmake, Keiser, Nguyen, Randall, Valdez and Wellman.

Brief History:
Committee Activity: Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade: 1/19/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Directs the Department of (Commerce) to oversee an independent assessment of opportunities to capture new and emerging industries, and strengthen its existing manufacturing base.
- Directs Commerce to appoint an industrial policy advisor.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, FINANCIAL SERVICES, GAMING & TRADE

Staff: Clint McCarthy

Background: Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) is the lead state agency tasked with enhancing and promoting community and economic vitality in Washington. As the agency responsible for growing the Washington State economy, it supports sector leads in areas such as aerospace, agriculture and food manufacturing, clean technology, information and communication technology, the creative economy, forest products, life sciences and biotechnology, maritime, and the military. Sector leads work closely with the Governor, industry heads, and government leaders to develop strategies to support business growth statewide.

The Washington BEST Manufacturing Act. In 2021, the Legislature passed The

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Washington BEST Manufacturing Act (act), which directed Commerce to develop a biennial report on the state of the manufacturing and research and development industry and workforce. The report must identify progress or challenges the state has encountered in achieving the goal and identify recommendations. Commerce must convene a Manufacturing Council to advise and consult on the development of the biennial report and recommendations. The act also established a Workforce Innovation Sector Lead within Commerce.

Summary of Bill: The Washington Clean Manufacturing Leadership Act is created and directs Commerce to oversee an independent assessment of opportunities to capture new and emerging industries, and strengthen its existing manufacturing base. An interim report is due on January 1, 2024 and the final report is due on October 1, 2024. The independent assessment has a variety of requirements that include, but are not limited to:

- an assessment of how the transition to net zero emissions by 2050 will impact manufacturing in Washington;
- an assessment of the needs of the state's existing manufacturers;
- the identification of opportunities to build and maximize environmental and economic benefits of a circular economy in new and existing industries; and
- the identification of requirements to attract new investment.

The assessment will not replace but may inform the manufacturing council, which advises and consults Commerce.

Commerce is directed to appoint an industrial policy advisor to ensure that Washington fully leverages available federal funding for manufacturing to meet the state's economic development goals.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 11, 2023.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.