Washington State
House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans Committee

SSB 6289

Brief Description: Creating a statewide economic development and competitiveness strategic plan.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Business, Trade & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Kauffman, Cortes, Wilson, C., Hasegawa, Lovick, Nobles, Shewmake and Valdez).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires the Department of Commerce to develop a Statewide Economic Development and Competitiveness Strategic Plan (Plan) by June 30, 2027, and update it every two years.
- Specifies Plan content, including economic challenges, opportunities, and profile; updates on programs addressing business needs; metrics to measure outcomes; and an implementation plan.

Hearing Date: 2/24/26

Staff: Martha Wehling (786-7067).

Background:

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) is responsible for promoting community and economic development and assisting the state's businesses to maintain and increase their economic competitiveness. To meet these responsibilities, Commerce is required to provide advisory assistance to the Governor, other state agencies, and the Legislature on community and economic development issues; cooperate with the Governor and the Legislature in developing

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and implementing strategic plans for community and economic development efforts; and hold public meetings.

Summary of Bill:

Commerce is required to develop a Statewide Economic Development and Competitiveness Strategic Plan (Plan) by June 30, 2027. At a minimum, the Plan is required to include:

- goals and strategies for state-supported economic development activities, using economic and industry data;
- an economic profile, considering demographics, workforce characteristics, industry landscape, and regional and tribal economics, infrastructure, and assets;
- economic challenges and opportunities;
- updates on the Small Business Resiliency Program and other programs addressing business needs;
- equity and community wealth building efforts;
- metrics to measure outcomes; and
- an implementation plan.

The Plan must be submitted to the Legislature and updated every two years.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.