

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Agency 103

Department of Commerce

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	272.2	125,227	392,659	517,886
Total Maintenance Level	273.9	127,262	392,545	519,807
Difference	1.7	2,035	(114)	1,921
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.6%	1.6%	0.0%	0.4%
Performance Changes				
Regulatory Process Improvement		250		250
Entrepreneurs-in-Residence		750		750
Innovation Contract #		1,950	3,384	5,334
Startup Washington 365		500		500
Community Economic Revitalization Board Support	.6		149	149
Local Government Planning Support	3.3	982		982
Strategic Growth Expansion		300		300
Infrastructure Information Portal	.3		250	250
Attorney General Legal Services		4	8	12
State Employee Health Insurance		(92)	(119)	(211)
Subtotal	4.1	4,644	3,672	8,316
Total Proposed Budget	278.0	131,906	396,217	528,123
Difference	5.8	6,679	3,558	10,237
Percent Change from Current Biennium	2.1%	5.3%	0.9%	2.0%

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Regulatory Process Improvement

Funding is provided to the department to complete a new regulatory process index that will be used to focus efforts to reduce business time, cost and frustration of regulatory compliance efforts.

Entrepreneurs-in-Residence

Funding is provided to partially restore the Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) program that assists efforts to increase commercialization of research and development projects at higher education institutions.

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Innovation Contract #

The Department of Commerce will contract with a non-profit entity in Washington to develop technology-based industries throughout the state. This contract will support research, development and commercialization of new or enhanced products and services in sustainable businesses, loans and grants for technology innovation, solicitation of federal and private funding for technology development efforts, and alignment of clean energy technologies with state policy. (General Fund-State, Investing in Innovation Account-Nonappropriated)

Startup Washington 365

Startup Washington 365 will provide ongoing and comprehensive technical assistance, equipping entrepreneurs with the tools, mentorship and skillsets they need to create jobs in Washington State. Through Startup Washington 365, participants will gain an understanding of starting and operating a business through on-site and webinar education and training workshops, business plan assistance, mentoring and networking opportunities.

Community Economic Revitalization Board Support

The Community Economic Revitalization Board will hire one additional FTE staff to support the board's efforts to further invest in local public facilities and create jobs. (Public Facilities Construction Loan Revolving Account-State)

Local Government Planning Support

Funding is provided for additional technical assistance staff to assist cities and counties with Growth Management Act comprehensive plan updates.

Strategic Growth Expansion

Funding is provided to expand the "Strategic Growth" initiative funded by the Legislature in the 2013-15 operating budget. The department will use additional funding to increase new foreign direct investment opportunities for international business development and increased export sales by Washington's small businesses.

Infrastructure Information Portal

The Department of Commerce will develop a portal for collecting statewide information for state and local government infrastructure needs. The portal will allow local governments, special purpose districts, tribes, ports and public utility districts to enter their capital improvement plans in one system, which will provide better data to inform budget decisions. (Public Works Account-State)

Attorney General Legal Services

The agency's budget is adjusted to align with increased billing levels for legal services in the 2013-15 Biennium because of an increased use of legal services in certain agencies and enhanced recruitment and retention efforts in the Office of the Attorney General. (General Fund-State, Other Funds)

State Employee Health Insurance

Funding for state employee health insurance is adjusted from \$763 per month per employee to \$703 per month per employee in Fiscal Year 2015. (General Fund-State, Other Funds)