

Business

A strong business community means good jobs paying middle-class wages to keep families economically secure. We need to create a forward-looking business environment that expands opportunities and fosters growth in the 21st century.

Kick-starting new businesses to create jobs

Crowdfunding / [HB 2023](#) – Crowdfunding is a way to raise money for a start-up venture in small amounts from many individual investors, typically via the Internet. But existing financial regulations and securities laws are complicated, and compliance is difficult, expensive and impractical for a small business seeking crowdfunding. This proposal streamlines and simplifies the process, giving entrepreneurs access to new sources of capital to allow them to succeed in business and create jobs –while also offering in-state investors a chance to share in the success at low cost. *(Delivered to governor)*



Ensuring jobs and movement of goods and people

Third ferry / [HB 1129](#) – The state ferry fleet – the largest in the country – is aging badly, with some boats dating back to the 1950s. HB 1129 finances construction of a new 144-vehicle ferry through fees on car and truck registrations and title transactions that are handled by county and state agencies. The boat – the final of three called for in the state transportation plan – would be built by Puget Sound shipyard workers. *(Delivered to governor)*

Realizing potential in the 21st-century economy

Wireless and cell phone services / [HB 2175](#) – The high-tech business sector offers both challenge and opportunity for state government: The challenge lies in keeping abreast of rapid changes in areas where the industry is subject to regulation, and the opportunity comes in the potential to encourage economic growth. HB 2175 helps to streamline permit requirements for wireless and cell-phone service expansion, with a focus on the scaled-down cell antennas and equipment installations that play an increasing role in fast-growing telecommunications networks. *(Delivered to governor)*

Attracting international business

International Arbitration Act / [HB 2169](#) – International commercial arbitration is a growing and lucrative field of law, and international firms want to hold arbitration hearings in a neutral location. By adopting the International Commercial Arbitration Act, Washington can become an attractive site for arbitration hearings, benefiting from the well-documented economic benefits of hosting international arbitrations. *(Died in Senate)*

Increasing opportunities for access to natural gas

Natural gas infrastructure / [HB 2177](#) – Natural gas is a clean, cost-effective energy source with a growing role in our economy. Yet many communities cannot take advantage of it because of a lack of supply lines and infrastructure. HB 2177 would spur extension of natural-gas service to areas without it, where it could replace wood and other sources of heat and energy that generate more pollution. The payoff would be economic benefits and cleaner air. *(Died in Senate)*