
SENATE BILL 5359

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Rockefeller, Poulsen, Oemig, Marr, Pridemore, Regala, Fraser, Kline and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/17/2007. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of the greenhouse gas reporting
2 study panel; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) There is growing interest in the tracking, registering, and
6 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at both the state and federal
7 levels of government. This growing interest is evidenced by
8 Washington's creation of the Washington center for climate and rural
9 energy development at Washington State University in 2002, to serve as
10 a central, nonregulatory clearinghouse of credible and reliable
11 information addressing various aspects of climate change and clean
12 energy activities, and the 2003 West Coast governor's global warming
13 initiative launched by the governors of Washington, Oregon, and
14 California;

15 (2) Although regulatory regimes will likely be necessary to create
16 a framework for greenhouse gas reductions, market mechanisms will play
17 an integral role in any plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the
18 next century;

1 (3) The federal government, states, and numerous private sector
2 businesses in the United States and abroad are discovering that it is
3 a sound business decision, both financially and environmentally, to
4 decrease their greenhouse gas emissions, through reduced emissions
5 and/or carbon sequestration;

6 (4) As part of the regulatory and market framework for the
7 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, many states have enacted
8 greenhouse gas reporting programs that include a variety of carbon
9 registration and sequestration programs;

10 (5) It is important for Washington to analyze the various programs
11 in order to determine the best steps for the state to take in order to
12 protect its citizens and the environment as well as provide businesses
13 and owners of agriculture and forest lands the opportunity to
14 participate in the various carbon trading markets and programs while
15 reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) The greenhouse gas reporting study panel
17 is created consisting of the following members appointed by the
18 governor:

19 (a) One representative of the governor's office;

20 (b) The director of the department of agriculture or the director's
21 designee;

22 (c) The director of the department of ecology or the director's
23 designee;

24 (d) The director of the department of natural resources or the
25 director's designee;

26 (e) The director of the department of fish and wildlife or the
27 director's designee;

28 (f) Two members from the climate academic sector, one from
29 Washington State University and one from the University of Washington;

30 (g) One member representing the department of community, trade, and
31 economic development;

32 (h) Two members from industries or businesses that produce carbon
33 emissions within the state of Washington;

34 (i) Two members from conservation or environmental groups;

35 (j) Two members representing owners of private forest lands, one
36 representative of owners of small private forest lands, and one
37 representative of owners of large or industrial private forest lands;

1 (k) Two members representing producers of field crops, at least one
2 of whom actively employs a minimum tillage management system in his or
3 her farming operation;

4 (l) Two members who are producers of livestock, at least one of
5 whom is actively involved in range management;

6 (m) One member with expertise in carbon dioxide emissions marketing
7 or trading;

8 (n) One member representing conservation districts in this state;
9 and

10 (o) One member representing an entity that generates electrical
11 energy.

12 (2) Members of the study panel shall serve without compensation but
13 shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided
14 in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. The Washington climate and rural
15 energy development center shall, subject to availability of
16 appropriations, provide space for meetings of the study panel and shall
17 provide other assistance and staffing needs of the study panel.
18 Staffing support shall also be provided by the department of community,
19 trade, and economic development, the department of natural resources,
20 and the department of ecology.

21 (3) The study panel shall prepare a report describing other state
22 registry programs and the opportunities to initiate a statewide
23 voluntary greenhouse gas emissions registry in Washington, as well as
24 the recommended structure of such a registry. The study panel and
25 report shall also:

26 (a) Investigate the feasibility of a carbon emissions cap and
27 trading program for the state as a strategy for further reducing
28 region-wide greenhouse gas emissions and identifying the effort
29 required to establish industry or sector-specific reporting and
30 baselines, qualification of third-party organizations to certify
31 reported baseline emissions, development of an emissions tracking
32 protocol, instituting an emissions trading mechanism, and any other
33 topics needed to better understand a registry and cap and trade
34 program; and

35 (b) Investigate the existence or potential for development of
36 sufficient regulatory basis for a carbon trading market that can be
37 accessed by Washington agricultural and forest landowners, the benefits
38 and drawbacks of existing models in other states as applied to

1 Washington, whether the implementation of a consistent protocol in all
2 western states for the accounting of carbon sequestration capacity
3 value will enhance carbon trading for the land owners, identify and
4 recommend areas of research needed to better understand and quantify
5 the processes of carbon sequestration, and other topics decided by the
6 study panel as necessary to explore in order to meet the charge of the
7 study panel.

8 (4) The study panel shall report the results of this study, along
9 with any recommendation for legislation, to the governor and the
10 appropriate standing committees of the legislature by November 1, 2007.

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