
HOUSE BILL 1229

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Buck, Anderson, DeBolt, Hatfield, Haigh, Doumit, Schoesler, Eickmeyer and Kessler

Read first time 01/19/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to carbon sequestration; creating new sections; and
2 making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that some private
5 sector companies that generate carbon dioxide emissions or manufacture
6 products that emit carbon dioxide, have begun purchasing carbon credits
7 from landowners and other companies that have invested in energy
8 efficiency retrofits. The companies that are purchasing these credits
9 recognize that the development of a market or trading program for these
10 credits would be beneficial. Forests are one of the most effective
11 long-term resources able to absorb carbon dioxide. These forests are
12 known to provide "carbon storage" or "carbon sinks." Because
13 Washington contains some of the most productive forests worldwide,
14 nonindustrial private forest landowners could greatly benefit from the
15 establishment of a formally recognized carbon storage trading program.
16 Marketing forest land for carbon storage could provide additional
17 revenue to nonindustrial forest landowners and this could act as an
18 incentive to maintain the land base in long-term forest production.
19 Therefore, it is essential that the state develop a carbon

1 sequestration program to allow the market-based trading of carbon
2 emissions within and across national and international jurisdictions.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A committee to develop a Washington state
4 carbon sequestration implementation and certification plan is created.
5 Staff support for the committee shall be provided by the office of
6 program research in the house of representatives and by senate
7 committee services.

8 (1) The committee shall consist of:

9 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,
10 selected by the president of the senate;

11 (b) One representative from each of the two largest caucuses of the
12 house of representatives, selected by the co-speakers of the house of
13 representatives;

14 (c) One person from the college of forest resources of the
15 University of Washington;

16 (d) One person representing the timber industry;

17 (e) One person representing local government;

18 (f) One person representing environmental interests;

19 (g) One person representing tribal interests;

20 (h) One person representing state agencies; and

21 (i) One person representing farm forestry.

22 (2) The committee shall prepare a report to the legislature by
23 December 15, 1999, that includes:

24 (a) A report on carbon sequestration activities that could earn
25 credits and receive payment for mitigation of carbon released to the
26 atmosphere;

27 (b) Recommendations for a system to register trades;

28 (c) An estimate of the current carbon storage capacity in the
29 state;

30 (d) An estimate of the carbon storage capacity increases available
31 through varying management regimes;

32 (e) Standards and protocols necessary to ensure that proposed
33 carbon sequestration projects meet a mandatory eligibility and emission
34 reduction criteria;

35 (f) Procedures to allow for the measurement, verification, and
36 tracking of proposed carbon sequestration projects; and

37 (g) Two pilot projects designed to implement the committee
38 recommendations.

1 (3) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
2 may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30,
3 2001, from the general fund to the department of natural resources for
4 the purpose of preparing the report on the Washington state carbon
5 sequestration implementation and certification plan.

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