

2 **SSB 6619** - S AMD 591

3 By Senators Morton, Poulsen and Fraser

4 ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/16/02

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following
8 findings:

9 (1) A vast and growing body of research and information about
10 changes to our global, national, and regional climates is being
11 produced by a variety of sources.

12 (2) Much of this research and information holds important value in
13 helping scientists, citizens, businesses, and public policymakers
14 understand how Washington may be affected by these changes.

15 (3) It is in the public interest to support efforts to promote
16 discussion and understanding of the potential effects of climate change
17 on Washington's water supply, agriculture, natural resources, coastal
18 infrastructure, public health, and economy, and to encourage the
19 formulation of sound recommendations for avoiding, mitigating, and
20 responding to those effects.

21 (4) The state should support the establishment of a central
22 clearinghouse to serve as an impartial, unbiased source of credible and
23 reliable information about climate change for the public.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
25 throughout sections 3 through 5 of this act unless the context clearly
26 requires otherwise.

27 (1) "Center" means the Washington climate and rural energy
28 development center.

29 (2) "Clean energy activities" means: (a) Activities related to
30 renewable resources including electricity generation facilities fueled
31 by water, wind, solar energy, geothermal energy, landfill gas, or
32 bioenergy; (b) programs and industries promoting research, development,
33 or commercialization of fuel cells and qualified alternative energy
34 resources as defined in RCW 19.29A.090; (c) energy efficiency measures

1 or technologies; and (d) technologies designed to significantly reduce
2 the use of or emissions from motor vehicle fuels.

3 (3) "Climate change" means a change of climate attributed directly
4 or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the
5 global atmosphere.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislature authorizes the establishment
7 of the Washington climate and rural energy development center as part
8 of the Washington State University energy program to serve as a
9 central, nonregulatory clearinghouse of credible and reliable
10 information addressing various aspects of climate change and clean
11 energy activities.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center shall be funded through grants,
13 and voluntary monetary and in-kind contributions.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The duties of the center may include,
15 but are not limited to:

16 (a) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data
17 related to climate change;

18 (b) Collecting and sharing information which could be used on a
19 voluntary basis to respond to potential climate change impacts should
20 they occur;

21 (c) Collecting and sharing information about clean energy
22 activities in the rural areas of the state, including information about
23 state resources available for developing such clean energy
24 opportunities;

25 (d) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial
26 opportunities;

27 (e) Studying and advising the legislature on the potential: (i)
28 Impacts of climate change in the state; and (ii) effects of early
29 action by the state, before action by the federal government or other
30 state governments, on the state's competitive position with respect to
31 other states;

32 (f) Accomplishing any other duty assigned to it by the legislature
33 for which adequate funding is provided; and

34 (g) Providing an annual report to the governor and legislature by
35 December 31st regarding its operations.

36 (2) The center shall, within available funds, also:

1 (a) Identify key sectors within the state likely to be affected
2 adversely by climate change;

3 (b) Examine and report the feasibility of a carbon storage program
4 for the state by:

5 (i) Evaluating other states' and nations' attempts to establish
6 carbon credit programs, carbon storage programs, carbon storage
7 requirements worldwide, and methods and scientific programs that are
8 used to implement carbon storage programs;

9 (ii) Analyzing other programs in the state of Washington, including
10 the conservation reserve enhancement program, that could facilitate a
11 carbon storage program and a stable carbon storage market;

12 (iii) Analyzing methods to encourage and increase appropriate
13 carbon storage activities; and

14 (iv) Developing and preparing appropriate legislative responses and
15 recommendations; and

16 (c) Publicize mitigation projects and efforts to address climate
17 change that include evaluations of whether those efforts were deemed to
18 be successful.

19 (3) The following agencies and programs will work with the center
20 to assist with the duties under this section: The department of
21 community, trade, and economic development, the department of ecology,
22 the department of transportation, the department of health, the
23 department of fish and wildlife, the department of agriculture, the
24 department of natural resources, and the Washington State University
25 energy program.

26 (4) The legislature may appoint one member from each legislative
27 caucus to serve on a legislative oversight committee for the center.

28 (5) The center shall establish task forces and technical advisory
29 committees, balanced in representation and composed of state and local
30 agencies and interested elected leaders, businesses, labor groups,
31 timber industry groups, agricultural groups, nonprofit organizations,
32 university and college programs, and citizens as necessary to assist in
33 the duties in this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2002.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each
36 added to chapter 28B.30 RCW."

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4 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "center;" strike the
5 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter
6 28B.30 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date."

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