
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5674

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Water (originally sponsored by Senators Constantine, Jacobsen, Prentice, Fraser and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to potential climate change; adding a new
2 chapter to Title 70 RCW; providing an effective date; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following
6 findings:

7 (1) The recent consensus report of the world's climate research
8 community has concluded that significant climate change arising
9 from pollutants generated by human activity is already underway.

10 (2) The best available analyses by northwest climate experts
11 now indicate a projected doubling of carbon dioxide in the
12 atmosphere is now expected to increase the average temperature in
13 Washington state four to seven degrees over the next fifty years.

14 (3) Such changes are likely to have major, adverse impacts on
15 the state's environment and economy.

16 (4) The citizens of Washington state have consistently
17 demonstrated global scientific, technological, and policy
18 leadership.

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2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
3 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
4 otherwise.

5 (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the Washington
6 climate center.

7 (2) "Center" means the Washington climate center.

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

11 (4) "Emissions" means the release of greenhouse gases.

12 (5) "Emitter" means the entity releasing greenhouse gases.

13 (6) "Greenhouse gases" includes all gases identified as of
14 January 1, 2001, for regulation by the United Nations framework
15 convention on climate change. They include, but are not limited to,
16 carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and natural gas (CH₄), and nitrous
17 oxide (N₂O).

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The state legislature authorizes the
19 establishment of an independent, nonprofit organization known as
20 the Washington climate center to serve as a central clearinghouse
21 for all climate change activities in the state.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center shall be funded through grants
23 and voluntary cash and in-kind contributions.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The activities of the center shall be
25 directed by a board of directors appointed by the governor, for
26 terms of four years, beginning November 1, 2001. The board shall
27 include fifteen members as follows:

28 (a) One member from each major party of the senate as
29 recommended by their leadership;

30 (b) One member from each major party of the house of
31 representatives as recommended by their leadership;

32 (c) One member from the office of the commissioner of public
33 lands;

34 (d) One member from the department of community, trade, and
35 economic development, energy policy group;

1 (e) One member from the Washington State University energy
2 program;

3 (f) Three members from the nonprofit, climate sector;

4 (g) Three members from the business sector; and

5 (h) Two members from the climate academic sector, one
6 representing the University of Washington, climate impacts group.

7 (2) The board shall retain and assign staff and volunteers as
8 the board deems necessary.

9 (3) The Washington State University energy program and the
10 University of Washington climate impacts group may provide staff,
11 technical assistance, and research for the center.

12 (4) A vote of a majority of the members of the board shall bind
13 the board.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The duties of the center may
15 include, but are not limited to:

16 (a) Determining current and projected emissions of greenhouse
17 gases in the state;

18 (b) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data
19 related to climate change;

20 (c) Assisting and collecting all climate contingency planning
21 in the state;

22 (d) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial
23 opportunities;

24 (e) Studying and recommending avenues for capping the total
25 amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the state by December 31,
26 2003;

27 (f) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods
28 for eliminating all net greenhouse gas emissions in the state by
29 December 31, 2020;

30 (g) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods
31 for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation
32 sector consistent with federal law;

33 (h) Certifying the extent and degree of any mitigation
34 projects;

35 (i) Developing adequate methods for the monitoring and
36 verification of mitigation projects; and

1 (j) Serving as a central, independent registry available for
2 the trading of emissions credits, if any.

3 (2) The center shall:

4 (a) Develop and publish its rules of operation, calculations,
5 and methods;

6 (b) Accomplish any other duty assigned to it by the legislature
7 for which adequate funding is provided; and

8 (c) Provide an annual report to the governor and legislature by
9 December 31st regarding its operations, including the status of
10 greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

11 (3) The center shall, within available funds, also:

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

14 (b) Notify and convene meetings of key members of those
15 sectors;

16 (c) Provide relevant scientific and technological information
17 to the public and key sectors;

18 (d) Support a collaborative response to assist those sectors;
19 and

20 (e) Assist in the creation of effective contingency planning
21 for those sectors.

22 (4) The following agencies and programs shall work with the
23 center to assist with the duties under this section: The department
24 of community, trade, and economic development, the department of
25 ecology, the department of transportation, the department of
26 health, the department of fish and wildlife and the Washington
27 State University energy program.

28 (5) The board may establish task forces and technical advisory
29 committees composed of state and local agencies, businesses, labor
30 groups, nonprofit organizations, university and college programs,
31 and interested groups and citizens as necessary to assist in the
32 duties in this section.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) All emitters of greenhouse gases are
34 encouraged to seek mitigation of their emissions.

35 (2) Upon a request, accompanied with adequate funding, the
36 center may:

37 (a) Assist any emitter in selecting mitigation projects;

1 (b) Determine and certify the amount of mitigation accomplished
2 by any mitigation project; and

3 (c) Determine what monitoring and verification standards would
4 be useful in the evaluation of mitigation projects.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The center shall publicize successful
6 mitigation projects and efforts to reduce the emission of
7 greenhouse gases.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
10 the state government and its existing public institutions, and
11 takes effect July 1, 2001.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act
13 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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