
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6619

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Water (originally sponsored by Senators Poulsen, Jacobsen, Fraser, Morton, Regala and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/2002.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington climate and rural energy
2 development center; adding new sections to chapter 28B.30 RCW; creating
3 a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

7 (1) "Center" means the Washington climate and rural energy
8 development center.

9 (2) "Clean energy activities" means: (a) Activities related to
10 renewable resources including electricity generation facilities fueled
11 by water, wind, solar energy, geothermal energy, landfill gas, or
12 bioenergy; (b) programs and industries promoting research, development,
13 or commercialization of fuel cells and qualified alternative energy
14 resources as defined in RCW 19.29A.090; (c) energy efficiency measures
15 or technologies; and (d) technologies designed to significantly reduce
16 the use of or emissions from motor vehicle fuels.

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

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislature authorizes the establishment
21 of the Washington climate and rural energy development center as part
22 of the Washington State University energy program to serve as a
23 central, nonregulatory clearinghouse of credible and reliable
24 information addressing various aspects of climate change and clean
25 energy activities.

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

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

30 (a) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data
31 related to climate change;

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

1 (c) Collecting and sharing information about clean energy
2 activities in the rural areas of the state, including information about
3 state resources available for developing such clean energy
4 opportunities;

5 (d) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial
6 opportunities;

7 (e) Monitoring high energy manipulation of the ionosphere and
8 tracking the hours of operation of the high frequency active auroral
9 research program;

10 (f) Studying and advising the legislature on the potential: (i)
11 Impacts of climate change in the state; and (ii) effects of early
12 action by the state, before action by the federal government or other
13 state governments, on the state's competitive position with respect to
14 other states;

15 (g) Accomplishing any other duty assigned to it by the legislature
16 for which adequate funding is provided; and

17 (h) Providing an annual report to the governor and legislature by
18 December 31st regarding its operations.

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

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

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

24 (i) Evaluating other states' and nations' attempts to establish
25 carbon credit programs, carbon storage programs, carbon storage
26 requirements worldwide, and methods and scientific programs that are
27 used to implement carbon storage programs;

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

31 (iii) Analyzing methods to encourage and increase appropriate
32 carbon storage activities; and

33 (iv) Developing and preparing appropriate legislative responses and
34 recommendations; and

35 (c) Publicize mitigation projects and efforts to address climate
36 change that include evaluations of whether those efforts were deemed to
37 be successful.

38 (3) The following agencies and programs will work with the center
39 to assist with the duties under this section: The department of

1 community, trade, and economic development, the department of ecology,
2 the department of transportation, the department of health, the
3 department of fish and wildlife, the department of agriculture, the
4 department of natural resources, and the Washington State University
5 energy program.

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

8 (5) The center shall establish task forces and technical advisory
9 committees, balanced in representation and composed of state and local
10 agencies and interested elected leaders, businesses, labor groups,
11 timber industry groups, agricultural groups, nonprofit organizations,
12 university and college programs, and citizens as necessary to assist in
13 the duties in this section.

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

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

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