
SENATE BILL 6718

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Finkbeiner, Regala, Keiser, Jacobsen and Poulsen

Read first time 01/28/2002. Referred to Committee on Environment,
Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to state government as a leader in clean energy
2 consumption; amending RCW 43.21F.015 and 43.21F.045; adding new
3 sections to chapter 43.21F RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Energy production and consumption account for the vast majority
7 of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions;

8 (b) As a significant consumer of energy resources and a committed
9 steward of public health and environmental quality, Washington state
10 government is well-positioned to be a leader in promoting and using
11 clean energy;

12 (c) State government actions to promote and use clean energy are
13 consistent with the state's environmental commitments, including
14 addressing the increasingly imminent dangers to Washington's qualities
15 of life that are threatened by global climate changes and improving
16 local and regional air quality;

17 (d) State government actions to promote and use clean energy are
18 also consistent with the state's high priority policy objectives to

1 maintain competitive energy costs and a reliable and secure supply of
2 energy resources; and

3 (e) State government actions to promote and use clean energy are
4 also consistent with the state's goals to support economic development
5 opportunities, by reducing traffic congestion and stimulating new and
6 emerging energy technologies within the clean energy industry of the
7 state's high-technology sector.

8 (2) The legislature intends state government to adopt a strategy to
9 meet its energy needs with no net emissions of greenhouse gases. The
10 legislature further intends the state to take immediate, short-term
11 steps to limit the emissions attributable to its electricity
12 consumption while developing a long-term, cost-effective strategy to
13 reach the goal of no net emissions.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21F RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 43.21F.015,
17 43.21F.045, and sections 5 and 6 of this act, unless the context
18 clearly requires otherwise.

19 (1) "Greenhouse gases" includes carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and
20 natural gas (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

21 (2) "Net emissions" means a quantity of emissions in excess of the
22 level of emissions attributable to the annual consumption of energy by
23 state government in the year 2000.

24 (3) "Qualified alternative energy resources" has the same meaning
25 as defined in RCW 19.29A.090.

26 (4) "State" and "state government" mean the executive branch
27 agencies of the state of Washington that are managed by governor-
28 appointed executives and state institutions of higher education.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.21F.015 and 1994 c 207 s 3 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 It is the policy of the state of Washington that:

32 (1) The development and use of a diverse array of energy resources
33 with emphasis on renewable energy resources shall be encouraged;

34 (2) The supply of energy shall be sufficient to insure the health
35 and economic welfare of its citizens;

36 (3) The development and use of energy resources shall be consistent
37 with the statutory environmental policies of the state;

1 (4) Energy conservation and elimination of wasteful and uneconomic
2 uses of energy and materials shall be encouraged, and this conservation
3 should include, but is not limited to, resource recovery and materials
4 recycling;

5 (5) In energy emergency shortage situations, energy requirements to
6 maintain the public health, safety, and welfare shall be given priority
7 in the allocation of energy resources, and citizens and industry shall
8 be assisted in adjusting to the limited availability of energy in order
9 to minimize adverse impacts on their physical, social, and economic
10 well being;

11 (6) State government adopt a policy to meet its energy needs with
12 no net emissions of greenhouse gases;

13 (7) State government shall provide a source of impartial and
14 objective information in order that this energy policy may be enhanced;
15 and

16 ((+7)) (8) The state energy strategy shall provide primary
17 guidance for implementation of the state's energy policy.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.21F.045 and 1996 c 186 s 103 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The department shall supervise and administer energy-related
21 activities as specified in RCW 43.330.904 and shall advise the governor
22 and the legislature with respect to energy matters affecting the state.

23 (2) In addition to other powers and duties granted to the
24 department, the department shall have the following powers and duties:

25 (a) Prepare and update contingency plans for implementation in the
26 event of energy shortages or emergencies. The plans shall conform to
27 chapter 43.21G RCW and shall include procedures for determining when
28 these shortages or emergencies exist, the state officers and agencies
29 to participate in the determination, and actions to be taken by various
30 agencies and officers of state government in order to reduce hardship
31 and maintain the general welfare during these emergencies. The
32 department shall coordinate the activities undertaken pursuant to this
33 subsection with other persons. The components of plans that require
34 legislation for their implementation shall be presented to the
35 legislature in the form of proposed legislation at the earliest
36 practicable date. The department shall report to the governor and the
37 legislature on probable, imminent, and existing energy shortages, and

1 shall administer energy allocation and curtailment programs in
2 accordance with chapter 43.21G RCW.

3 (b) Establish and maintain a central repository in state government
4 for collection of existing data on energy resources, including:

5 (i) Supply, demand, costs, utilization technology, projections, and
6 forecasts;

7 (ii) Comparative costs of alternative energy sources, uses, and
8 applications; and

9 (iii) Inventory data on energy research projects in the state
10 conducted under public and/or private auspices, and the results
11 thereof.

12 (c) Coordinate federal energy programs appropriate for state-level
13 implementation, carry out such energy programs as are assigned to it by
14 the governor or the legislature, and monitor federally funded local
15 energy programs as required by federal or state regulations.

16 (d) Develop energy policy recommendations for consideration by the
17 governor and the legislature, including but not limited to strategies
18 and options to allow state government to meet its energy needs with no
19 net emissions of greenhouse gases.

20 (e) Provide assistance, space, and other support as may be
21 necessary for the activities of the state's two representatives to the
22 Pacific northwest electric power and conservation planning council. To
23 the extent consistent with federal law, the director shall request that
24 Washington's council members request the administrator of the
25 Bonneville power administration to reimburse the state for the expenses
26 associated with the support as provided in the Pacific Northwest
27 Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (P.L. 96-501).

28 (f) Cooperate with state agencies, other governmental units, and
29 private interests in the prioritization and implementation of the state
30 energy strategy elements and on other energy matters.

31 (g) Serve as the official state agency responsible for coordinating
32 implementation of the state energy strategy.

33 (h) No later than December 1, 1982, and by December 1st of each
34 even-numbered year thereafter, prepare and transmit to the governor and
35 the appropriate committees of the legislature a report on the
36 implementation of the state energy strategy and other important energy
37 issues, as appropriate.

1 (i) Provide support for increasing cost-effective energy
2 conservation, including assisting in the removal of impediments to
3 timely implementation.

4 (j) Provide support for the development of cost-effective energy
5 resources including assisting in the removal of impediments to timely
6 construction.

7 (k) Adopt rules, under chapter 34.05 RCW, necessary to carry out
8 the powers and duties enumerated in this chapter.

9 (l) Provide administrative assistance, space, and other support as
10 may be necessary for the activities of the energy facility site
11 evaluation council, as provided for in RCW 80.50.030.

12 (m) Appoint staff as may be needed to administer energy policy
13 functions and manage energy facility site evaluation council
14 activities. These employees are exempt from the provisions of chapter
15 41.06 RCW.

16 (3) To the extent the powers and duties set out under this section
17 relate to energy education, applied research, and technology transfer
18 programs they are transferred to Washington State University.

19 (4) To the extent the powers and duties set out under this section
20 relate to energy efficiency in public buildings they are transferred to
21 the department of general administration.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21F RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) The department of general administration must ensure that a
25 portion of state government's electricity consumption be from qualified
26 alternative energy resources, energy conservation, and efficiency
27 measures implemented on or after January 1, 2002, or a combination
28 thereof, according to the following schedule:

29 (a) At least two percent by July 1, 2003;

30 (b) At least four percent by July 1, 2005;

31 (c) At least six percent by July 1, 2007;

32 (d) At least eight percent by July 1, 2009; and

33 (e) At least ten percent by July 1, 2011.

34 (2) The department of general administration must pursue, in
35 collaboration with the department of ecology, opportunities to sell,
36 trade, or receive other fair value for any emissions reductions credits
37 attributable to state government's shift to consumption of electricity
38 from qualified energy resources.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21F RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 In preparing the biennial energy report required under RCW
4 43.21F.045(2)(h) to be transmitted to the governor and the legislature
5 by December 1, 2002, the department must include the following
6 information:

7 (1) A measurement of the current and likely future greenhouse gas
8 emissions resulting from state government's current and projected
9 energy consumption;

10 (2) Identification of specific strategies and options to reduce or
11 offset the emissions by sufficient quantity and quality in order to
12 compensate for the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the state
13 government's energy consumption. Strategies and options may include,
14 but need not necessarily be limited to, the following:

15 (a) Reducing the state's consumption of electricity through
16 aggressive pursuit of cost-effective energy conservation and efficiency
17 opportunities;

18 (b) Increasing the proportion of electricity the state generates
19 for its own use or purchases through an electric utility from qualified
20 alternative energy resources;

21 (c) Addressing transportation-related energy challenges such as
22 improving the fuel efficiency of the state's vehicle fleet, using
23 alternative fuels in the state's vehicle fleet, changing the ways state
24 employees and contractors travel, and developing transportation
25 substitutes for state employees and contractors; and

26 (d) Options for mitigation or offsets that directly avoid,
27 displace, or permanently sequester greenhouse gas emissions as close in
28 time as possible to the occurrence of the actual emissions;

29 (3) An analysis of the feasibility of extending the no net
30 emissions standard to state agencies other than those defined in
31 section 2(4) of this act, including but not limited to public
32 educational institutions; and

33 (4) A status report on the planning and progress related to
34 implementing section 5 of this act. The department of general
35 administration must provide the data necessary for the department to
36 make this status report, including baseline electricity consumption by
37 resource type and supplier.

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