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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2401**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris and B. Sullivan)

READ FIRST TIME 01/24/06.

1       AN ACT Relating to developing regional compacts for siting  
2 transmission lines; adding a new section to chapter 80.50 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
6 create a regional process for the siting of new electric transmission  
7 lines related to the national energy policy act of 2005. This regional  
8 process will facilitate the siting of new cross borders electric  
9 transmission lines by providing a "one stop" licensing process. This  
10 act calls for the creation of a legislative task force to establish an  
11 interstate compact to assert jurisdiction over national interest  
12 electric transmission corridors.

13       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 80.50 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15       (1)(a) A task force on national interest electric transmission  
16 corridors is established, with members as provided in this subsection.

17       (i) The chair and the ranking minority member from the senate  
18 water, energy and environment committee;

1 (ii) The chair and the ranking minority member from the house  
2 technology, energy and communications committee;

3 (iii) The governor shall appoint five members representing the  
4 energy facility site evaluation council, local governments, resource  
5 agencies, or other persons with appropriate expertise.

6 (b) The task force shall choose its cochair representing the  
7 senate and house of representatives from among its legislative  
8 membership.

9 (2)(a) The task force shall negotiate the terms of an interstate  
10 compact that establishes a regional process for siting national  
11 interest electric transmission corridors satisfactory to provisions of  
12 the national energy policy act of 2005.

13 (b) In negotiating the terms of the compact, the task force shall  
14 ensure that the compact reflects as close as possible the Washington  
15 state energy facility site evaluation council model under this chapter  
16 and its procedures to ensure appropriate adjudicative proceedings and  
17 mitigation of environmental impacts.

18 (c) The task force shall negotiate the terms of the compact through  
19 processes established and supported by the Pacific Northwest economic  
20 region for which the state of Washington is a party as referenced in  
21 RCW 43.147.010.

22 (3) Staff support for the task force members shall be provided from  
23 respective committees and appropriate agencies appointed by the  
24 governor.

25 (4) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for  
26 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
27 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
28 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
29 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

30 (5) The task force shall report its preliminary recommendations on  
31 the compact to the appropriate committees of the legislature by January  
32 1, 2007.

33 (6) The task force shall report its final recommendations on the  
34 compact to the appropriate committees of the legislature by September  
35 1, 2007.

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