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SENATE BILL 6013

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker and Frockt

Read first time 01/09/12. Referred to Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state integrated climate change response  
2 strategy; and amending RCW 43.21M.010, 43.21M.020, and 43.21M.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.21M.010 and 2009 c 519 s 10 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The departments of ecology, agriculture, (~~community, trade,~~  
7 ~~and economic development~~)) commerce, fish and wildlife, natural  
8 resources, and transportation shall develop an integrated climate  
9 change response strategy to better enable state and local agencies,  
10 public and private businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and  
11 individuals to prepare for, address, and adapt to the impacts of  
12 climate change. The integrated climate change response strategy should  
13 be developed, where feasible and consistent with the direction of the  
14 strategy, in collaboration with local government agencies with climate  
15 change preparation and adaptation plans.

16 (2) The department of ecology shall serve as a central  
17 clearinghouse for relevant scientific and technical information about  
18 the impacts of climate change on Washington's ecology, economy, and

1 society, as well as serve as a central convener for the development of  
2 vital programs and necessary policies to help the state adapt to a  
3 rapidly changing climate.

4 (3) The department of ecology shall consult and collaborate with  
5 the departments of fish and wildlife, agriculture, (~~community, trade,~~  
6 ~~and economic development~~) commerce, natural resources, and  
7 transportation in developing an integrated climate change response  
8 strategy and plans of action to prepare for and adapt to climate change  
9 impacts.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.21M.020 and 2009 c 519 s 11 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The integrated climate change response strategy should address  
13 the impact of and adaptation to climate change, as well as the regional  
14 capacity to undertake actions, existing ecosystem and resource  
15 management concerns, and health and economic risks. In addition, the  
16 departments of ecology, agriculture, (~~community, trade, and economic~~  
17 ~~development~~) commerce, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and  
18 transportation should include a range of scenarios for the purposes of  
19 planning in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent  
20 feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to the impacts  
21 of climate change.

22 (2)(a) By December 1, 2011, and every ten years thereafter, the  
23 department of ecology shall compile (~~an initial~~) a climate change  
24 response strategy, including information and data from the departments  
25 of fish and wildlife, agriculture, (~~community, trade, and economic~~  
26 ~~development~~) commerce, natural resources, and transportation that:  
27 Summarizes the best known science on climate change impacts to  
28 Washington; assesses Washington's vulnerability to the identified  
29 climate change impacts; prioritizes solutions that can be implemented  
30 within and across state agencies; and identifies recommended funding  
31 mechanisms and technical and other essential resources for implementing  
32 solutions.

33 (b) The (~~initial~~) strategy must include:

34 (i) Efforts to identify priority planning areas for action, based  
35 on vulnerability and risk assessments;

36 (ii) Barriers challenging state and local governments to take

1 action, such as laws, policies, regulations, rules, and procedures that  
2 require revision to adequately address adaptation to climate change;

3 (iii) Opportunities to integrate climate science and projected  
4 impacts into planning and decision making; and

5 (iv) Methods to increase public awareness of climate change, its  
6 projected impacts on the community, and to build support for meaningful  
7 adaptation policies and strategies.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.21M.030 and 2009 c 519 s 12 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 The departments of ecology, agriculture, (~~community, trade, and~~  
11 ~~economic development~~) commerce, fish and wildlife, natural resources,  
12 and transportation may consult with qualified nonpartisan experts from  
13 the scientific community as needed to assist with developing an  
14 integrated climate change response strategy. The qualified nonpartisan  
15 experts from the scientific community may assist the department of  
16 ecology on the following components:

17 (1) Identifying the timing and extent of impacts from climate  
18 change;

19 (2) Assessing the effects of climate variability and change in the  
20 context of multiple interacting stressors or impacts;

21 (3) Developing forecasting models;

22 (4) Determining the resilience of the environment, natural systems,  
23 communities, and organizations to deal with potential or actual impacts  
24 of climate change and the vulnerability to which a natural or social  
25 system is susceptible to sustaining damage from climate change impacts;  
26 and

27 (5) Identifying other issues, as determined by the department of  
28 ecology, necessary to develop policies and actions for the integrated  
29 climate change response strategy.

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