
SENATE BILL 5093

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Hewitt, Mullet, and Sheldon

Read first time 01/14/15. Referred to Committee on Energy,
Environment & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the nuclear energy education program;
2 and adding a new chapter to Title 80 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Modern life demands affordable and reliable energy and there
6 is increasing interest in energy that is free of carbon emissions and
7 free from historical price volatility associated with other energy
8 resources;

9 (2) Nuclear energy is the leading and most reliable source of
10 carbon-free energy in the nation and plays a crucial role in
11 Washington's carbon-free energy mix;

12 (3) The nuclear energy industry, with a rich tradition of
13 employing military veterans, provides Washington with thousands of
14 quality, high paying jobs grounded in unparalleled scientific and
15 technical expertise; and

16 (4) A proactive engagement is necessary to educate the public on
17 the benefits of nuclear energy, such as its carbon-free energy
18 profile, its reliability and affordability, and its importance as an
19 incubator of a diverse and highly skilled workforce.

1 NEW SECTION.

2 **Sec. 2.**

3 (1) Consistent with the legislative
4 findings in section 1 of this act, the legislature establishes the
5 nuclear energy education program. The program is intended to promote
6 the benefits of nuclear energy by educating students and science
7 teachers in grades eight through twelve.

8 (2) The program shall be administered by the director of the
9 Washington State University extension energy program. Under the
10 program, the director shall award grants on a competitive basis to
11 nuclear education ambassadors and to eligible science teachers
12 attending qualified workshops on nuclear energy.

13 (3)(a) Grants for nuclear education ambassadors are to be used to
14 create a pool of persons who can introduce students to nuclear
15 science and technology through classroom visits.

16 (b) Grants for science teachers are to be used to assist teachers
17 in attending qualifying workshops where they can meet nuclear
18 professionals and learn about experiments and demonstrations suitable
19 for their classrooms.

20 (4) In reviewing grant applications, scoring must be based on an
21 evaluation of all application materials including narratives, support
22 letters, supplementary materials, and other materials that may be
23 requested of applicants. The director may consult with the American
24 nuclear society or similar organizations when selecting
25 applicants. Grants may be awarded for the full amount of a request or
26 for a portion of a request.

27 (5) Applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

28 (a) A nuclear ambassador must exemplify the skills, motivation,
29 and commitment to safety that is demanded in the nuclear industry. In
30 addition, an ambassador must: (i) Be a resident of Washington; (ii)
31 be a member of the American nuclear society; (iii) complete a
32 background check as required by school district policy where the
33 ambassador chooses to serve; and (iv) use materials prepared by the
34 American nuclear society, or similar organizations, when possible;

35 (b) An eligible science teacher must be: (i) Endorsed to teach
36 one or more science classes in grade eight or higher through grade
37 twelve; and (ii) certificated under chapter 28A.410 RCW.

38 (6) A qualifying workshop must be: (a) Sponsored by the American
39 nuclear society or a United States department of energy national
laboratory; (b) for science teachers in grades eight or higher

1 through grade twelve; and (c) designed to teach matters relating to
2 nuclear energy.

3 (7) Applicants for grants under the program are encouraged to do
4 each of the following:

5 (a) Coordinate and collaborate with organizations and individuals
6 engaging in similar educational, research, and development endeavors
7 to maximize the effect of grants; and

8 (b) Seek matching funds, in-kind contributions, or other sources
9 of support to supplement their proposal.

10 (8) Program grants may only be used to pay for the following
11 costs:

12 (a) Mileage, subsistence, and lodging expenses for classroom
13 ambassadors that are directly associated with their school
14 visits. Reimbursed expenses must be paid at rates equivalent to
15 reimbursements received by state employees under RCW 43.03.050 and
16 43.03.060; or

17 (b) Tuition, books, mileage, subsistence, and lodging expenses
18 for certificated science teachers in grades eight through twelve who
19 attend science workshops on nuclear energy. Reimbursed expenses must
20 be directly associated with workshop attendance and must be paid at
21 rates equivalent to reimbursements received by state employees under
22 RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

23 (9) The nuclear energy education program must be funded by state
24 legislative appropriations and donated funds from private and public
25 sources.

26 (10) The director may accept gifts, grants, or endowments from
27 public or private sources for the program and may spend any gifts,
28 grants, or endowments or income from public or private sources
29 according to their terms. All funds received shall be deposited in
30 the Washington nuclear energy education account created in section 3
31 of this act.

32 (11) Nuclear ambassadors selected under the nuclear energy
33 education program are not employees or agents of the state or any of
34 its political subdivisions. This section does not create any civil
35 liability on the part of the state or any of its political
36 subdivisions, officers, employees, or agents for the actions taken by
37 a nuclear ambassador during the course of serving under the program.

38 (12) The director may adopt rules to implement the nuclear energy
39 education program.

1 (13) For the purposes of this section, "director" means the
2 director of the Washington State University extension energy program
3 or the director's designee.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington nuclear energy education
5 account is established in the state treasury. The director of the
6 Washington State University extension energy program or the
7 director's designee shall deposit into the account federal grants to
8 the state, legislative appropriations, and donated funds from private
9 and public sources that are related to educating students in grades
10 eight through twelve on the benefits of nuclear energy. Expenditures
11 from the account may be used only for the purposes established in
12 section 2 of this act and to publicize the nuclear energy education
13 program. Only the director of the Washington State University
14 extension energy program or the director's designee may authorize
15 expenditures from the account.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
17 constitute a new chapter in Title 80 RCW.

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