AN ACT Relating to amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change science; and amending RCW 70.235.020.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 70.235.020 and 2008 c 14 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) The state shall limit emissions of greenhouse gases to achieve the following emission reductions for Washington state:

   (i) By 2020, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the state to 1990 levels;
   
   (ii) By 2035, reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the state to ((twenty-five)) forty percent below 1990 levels;

   (iii) By 2050, the state will do its part to reach global climate stabilization levels by reducing overall emissions to ((fifty)) eighty percent below 1990 levels((, or seventy percent below the state's expected emissions that year)).

   (b) By December 1, 2008, the department shall submit a greenhouse gas reduction plan for review and approval to the legislature, describing those actions necessary to achieve the emission reductions in (a) of this subsection by using existing statutory authority and any additional authority granted by the legislature. Actions taken
using existing statutory authority may proceed prior to approval of
the greenhouse gas reduction plan.

(c) Except where explicitly stated otherwise, nothing in chapter
14, Laws of 2008 limits any state agency authorities as they existed
prior to June 12, 2008.

(d) Consistent with this directive, the department shall take the
following actions:

(i) Develop and implement a system for monitoring and reporting
emissions of greenhouse gases as required under RCW 70.94.151; and

(ii) Track progress toward meeting the emission reductions
established in this subsection, including the results from policies
currently in effect that have been previously adopted by the state
and policies adopted in the future, and report on that progress.

(2) By December 31st of each even-numbered year beginning in
2010, the department and the department of ((community, trade, and
economic development)) commerce shall report to the governor and the
appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives the
total emissions of greenhouse gases for the preceding two years, and
totals in each major source sector. The department shall ensure the
reporting rules adopted under RCW 70.94.151 allow it to develop a
comprehensive inventory of emissions of greenhouse gases from all
significant sectors of the Washington economy.

(3) Except for purposes of reporting, emissions of carbon dioxide
from industrial combustion of biomass in the form of fuel wood, wood
waste, wood by-products, and wood residuals shall not be considered a
greenhouse gas as long as the region's silvicultural sequestration
capacity is maintained or increased.

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