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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2914**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2018 Regular Session**

**By** House Environment (originally sponsored by Representatives Smith, Fitzgibbon, Doglio, and Senn)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to Washington's economic development potential as  
2 a world leader in the responsible management of postconsumer  
3 materials; amending RCW 70.95.290; adding new sections to chapter  
4 70.95 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends for Washington to  
7 continue to be a leader in economically and environmentally  
8 sustainable management of recyclable materials and solid waste. In  
9 this act, the legislature intends to underscore the state's  
10 accountability for the waste it generates and to inform more  
11 widespread public understanding of the realities and challenges of  
12 recyclable material collection, sorting, processing, and marketing as  
13 a part of solid waste management.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of commerce shall  
15 arrange for the completion of an economic analysis of recyclable  
16 material and solid waste processing, export, and disposal activities  
17 in Washington. This analysis must not result in the disclosure or  
18 publication of confidential business information. The analysis must  
19 include:

1 (a) An overview of existing types of recycling business practices  
2 in Washington that involve processing materials into saleable  
3 products. The evaluation must also include an evaluation of  
4 opportunities and barriers to recycling more materials within  
5 Washington and regionally and the expansion of the number and types  
6 of recycling businesses in the state; and

7 (b) An evaluation of the implications of relevant global and  
8 regional changes in the recycling market on recycling rates and on  
9 businesses collecting and processing recyclable materials in  
10 Washington.

11 (2) By July 1, 2019, the analysis required in subsection (1) of  
12 this section must be submitted in a report to the legislature  
13 consistent with the requirements of RCW 43.01.036. The analysis must  
14 be accompanied by recommendations from the department of commerce  
15 that:

16 (a) Identify which recyclable materials add the greatest economic  
17 value to recycling programs and will have a market to sustain those  
18 programs; and

19 (b) Identify ways to increase the amount of recyclable materials  
20 generated in Washington that are processed in Washington or in other  
21 places where postconsumer materials are managed with economically and  
22 environmentally sustainable practices.

23 (3) The department of commerce must develop the analysis and  
24 recommendations in this section in consultation with a focused  
25 stakeholder work group consisting of a representative from each of  
26 the following: The utilities and transportation commission; the  
27 department of ecology; cities; counties; a permitted material  
28 recovery facility operator; public and private sector recycling and  
29 solid waste industries; packaging manufacturers and retailers; and an  
30 environmental organization.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.95  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 The department must arrange for the facilitation of, and may  
34 participate in, efforts by the stakeholder work group identified in  
35 section 2(3) of this act to develop a public outreach strategy with  
36 the goal of improving recycling practices. The public outreach  
37 strategy must be designed to reduce rates of contamination of  
38 recyclable materials and to improve consumer education regarding  
39 their role in solid waste management. The public outreach strategy

1 must be statewide in scope but must also accommodate the variation in  
2 local government collection activities and local community  
3 considerations. The department must ensure that the public outreach  
4 strategy is completed and ready for implementation by December 1,  
5 2019.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 70.95  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) With input from the stakeholder work group identified in  
9 section 2(3) of this act, the department may develop guidelines  
10 designed to:

11 (a) Provide assistance that supports implementation of a public  
12 outreach strategy to reduce collected recyclable material  
13 contamination rates; and

14 (b) Promote statewide best practices in the types and materials  
15 of recyclable material collection. These best practices may  
16 categorize best practices by local government size or other  
17 considerations.

18 (2) The guidelines in this section must be updated periodically  
19 to reflect changes in recyclable material market conditions.

20 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.95.290 and 1988 c 184 s 3 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 ~~((1) The evaluation of the solid waste stream required in RCW  
23 70.95.280 shall include the following elements:~~

24 ~~(a) The department shall determine which management method for  
25 each category of solid waste will have the least environmental  
26 impact; and~~

27 ~~(b) The department shall evaluate the costs of various management  
28 options for each category of solid waste, including a review of  
29 market availability, and shall take into consideration the economic  
30 impact on affected parties;~~

31 ~~(c) Based on the results of (a) and (b) of this subsection, the  
32 department shall determine the best management for each category of  
33 solid waste. Different management methods for the same categories of  
34 waste may be developed for different parts of the state.~~

35 ~~(2))~~ In the evaluation of the solid waste stream required in RCW  
36 70.95.280, the department shall give priority to evaluating  
37 categories of solid waste that, in relation to other categories of  
38 solid waste, comprise a large volume of the solid waste stream,

1 present economic opportunities for material recovery, recycling, and  
2 reuse, or present a high potential of harm to human health. ((~~At a~~  
3 ~~minimum the following categories of waste shall be evaluated: (a) By~~  
4 ~~January 1, 1989, yard waste and other biodegradable materials, paper~~  
5 ~~products, disposable diapers, and batteries; and~~  
6 ~~(b) By January 1, 1990, metals, glass, plastics, styrofoam or~~  
7 ~~rigid lightweight cellular polystyrene, and tires.~~))

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