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**SENATE BILL 5545**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Das, Rolfes, Takko, McCoy, Hunt, Keiser, Nguyen, and Hasegawa; by request of Department of Ecology

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology.

1 AN ACT Relating to sustainable recycling; amending RCW 70.93.180  
2 70.95.090, 70.95.100, and 70.95.130; adding a new chapter to Title 70  
3 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions, conserves energy  
7 and landfill space, provides jobs and valuable feedstock materials to  
8 industry, promotes health, and protects the environment;

9 (b) Washington has long been a leader in sound management of  
10 recyclable materials and solid waste;

11 (c) Waste import restrictions worldwide are having huge  
12 implications for state and local recycling programs and operations in  
13 Washington state, requiring immediate action by the legislature;

14 (d) In order to maintain our leadership in recycling and create  
15 regional domestic markets, Washington must be innovative and  
16 implement best practices for recycling and waste reduction;

17 (e) Washington's environment and economy will benefit from  
18 expanding the number of industries that process recycled materials  
19 and use recycled feedstocks in their manufacturing;

20 (f) Washington recognizes the value of manufacturing incentives  
21 to encourage recycling industries to locate and operate in Washington

1 and provide manufacturer incentives to improve the recyclability of  
2 their products;

3 (g) Many local governments and private entities cumulatively  
4 affect, and are affected by, the market for recycled commodities but  
5 have limited jurisdiction and cannot adequately address the problems  
6 of market development that are complex, wide-ranging, and regional in  
7 nature;

8 (h) The private sector has the greatest capacity for creating and  
9 expanding markets for recycled commodities and the development of  
10 private markets for recycled commodities is in the public interest;  
11 and

12 (i) Washington must create a center to facilitate business  
13 assistance, provide basic and applied research and development, as  
14 well as policy analysis, to further the development of domestic  
15 processing and markets for recycled commodities.

16 (2) Therefore, it is the policy of the state to create the  
17 recycling development center to research, incentivize, and develop  
18 new markets and expand existing markets for recycled commodities and  
19 recycling facilities.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
21 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
22 otherwise.

23 (1) "Center" means recycling development center.

24 (2) "Department" means the department of ecology.

25 (3) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

26 (4) "Local government" means a city, town, or county.

27 (5) "Multiple-family residence" means any structure housing two  
28 or more dwelling units.

29 (6) "Recyclable materials" means those solid wastes that are  
30 separated for recycling or reuse, such as papers, metals, and glass,  
31 that are identified as recyclable material pursuant to a local  
32 comprehensive solid waste plan.

33 (7) "Recycling" means transforming or remanufacturing waste  
34 materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than  
35 landfill disposal or incineration.

36 (8) "Secondary materials" means any materials that are not the  
37 primary products from manufacturing and other industrial sectors.  
38 These materials may include scrap and residuals from production

1 processes and products that have been recovered at the end of their  
2 useful life.

3 (9) "Solid waste" or "wastes" means all putrescible and  
4 nonputrescible solid and semisolid wastes including, but not limited  
5 to, garbage, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, swill, sewage sludge,  
6 demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts  
7 thereof, and recyclable materials.

8 (10) "Waste reduction" means reducing the amount or toxicity of  
9 waste generated or reusing materials.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The recycling development center is  
11 created within the department of ecology.

12 (2) The purpose of the center is to provide or facilitate basic  
13 and applied research and development, marketing, and policy analysis  
14 in furthering the development of markets and processing for recycled  
15 commodities and products. As used in this chapter, market development  
16 consists of public and private activities that are used to overcome  
17 impediments preventing full and productive use of secondary materials  
18 diverted from the waste stream, and that encourage and expand use of  
19 those materials and subsequent products. In fulfilling this mission,  
20 the center must initially direct its services to businesses that  
21 transform or remanufacture waste materials into usable or marketable  
22 materials or products for use rather than disposal.

23 (3) The center must perform the following activities:

24 (a) Develop an annual work plan. The work plan must describe  
25 actions and recommendations for developing markets for commodities  
26 comprising a significant percentage of the waste stream and having  
27 potential for use as an industrial or commercial feedstock, with  
28 initial focus on mixed waste paper and plastics;

29 (b) Evaluate, analyze, and make recommendations on state policies  
30 that may affect markets for recyclable materials;

31 (c) Work with manufacturers and producers of packaging and other  
32 potentially recyclable materials on their work to increase the  
33 ability of their products to be recycled or reduced in Washington;

34 (d) Initiate, conduct, or contract for studies relating to market  
35 development for recyclable materials, including but not limited to  
36 applied research, technology transfer, and pilot demonstration  
37 projects;

1 (e) Obtain and disseminate information relating to market  
2 development for recyclable materials from other state and local  
3 agencies and other sources;

4 (f) Contract with individuals, corporations, trade associations,  
5 and research institutions for the purposes of this chapter;

6 (g) Provide grants or contracts to local governments, state  
7 agencies, or other public institutions to further the development or  
8 revitalization of recycling markets in accordance with applicable  
9 rules and regulations. The department may adopt any rules necessary  
10 to implement and enforce this chapter, including but not limited to  
11 measures for the center's performance;

12 (h) Provide business and marketing assistance to public and  
13 private sector entities within the state;

14 (i) Represent the state in regional and national market  
15 development issues and work to create a regional recycling  
16 development council that will work across either state or provincial  
17 borders, or both;

18 (j) Wherever necessary, the center must work with: Material  
19 recovery facility operators; public and private sector recycling and  
20 solid waste industries; packaging manufacturers and retailers; local  
21 governments; environmental organizations; interested colleges and  
22 universities; and state agencies, including the department of  
23 commerce and the utilities and transportation commission; and

24 (k) Report to the legislature and the governor each even-numbered  
25 year on the progress of achieving the center's purpose and performing  
26 the center's activities.

27 (4) In order to carry out its responsibilities under this  
28 chapter, the department must enter into an interagency agreement with  
29 the department of commerce to perform or contract for the following  
30 activities:

31 (a) Provide targeted business assistance to recycling businesses,  
32 including:

33 (i) Development of business plans;

34 (ii) Market research and planning information;

35 (iii) Referral and information on market conditions; and

36 (iv) Information on new technology and product development;

37 (b) Conduct outreach to negotiate voluntary agreements with  
38 manufacturers to increase the use of recycled materials in product  
39 development;

1 (c) Support, promote, and identify research and development to  
2 stimulate new technologies and products using recycled materials;

3 (d) Actively promote manufacturing with recycled commodities, as  
4 well as purchasing of recycled products by state agencies, local  
5 governments, and the private sector;

6 (e) Undertake studies on the unmet capital and other needs of  
7 reprocessing and manufacturing firms using recycled materials, such  
8 as financing and incentive programs; and

9 (f) Conduct research to understand the waste stream supply chain  
10 and incentive strategies for retention, expansion, and attraction of  
11 innovative recycling technology businesses.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The center's activities must be guided  
13 by an advisory board.

14 (2) The duties of the advisory board are to:

15 (a) Provide advice and guidance on the annual work plan of the  
16 center; and

17 (b) Evaluate, analyze, and make recommendations on state policies  
18 that may affect markets for recyclable materials to the director and  
19 the department of commerce.

20 (3) Except as otherwise provided, advisory board members must be  
21 appointed by the director in consultation with the department of  
22 commerce as follows:

23 (a) One member to represent cities;

24 (b) One member to represent eastside counties;

25 (c) One member to represent westside counties;

26 (d) One member to represent public interest groups;

27 (e) Three members from universities or state and federal research  
28 institutions;

29 (f) Up to seven private sector members to represent all aspects  
30 of the recycling materials system, including but not limited to  
31 manufacturing and packaging, and solid waste management;

32 (g) The chair of the utilities and transportation commission or  
33 the chair's designee as a nonvoting member; and

34 (h) Nonvoting, temporary appointments to the board may be made by  
35 the chair of the advisory board where specific expertise is needed.

36 (4) The initial appointments of the seven private sector members  
37 are as follows: Three members with three-year terms and four members  
38 with two-year terms. Thereafter, members serve two-year renewable  
39 terms.

1 (5) The advisory board must meet at least quarterly.

2 (6) The chair of the advisory board must be elected from among  
3 the members by a simple majority vote.

4 (7) The advisory board may adopt bylaws and a charter for the  
5 operation of its business for the purposes of this chapter.

6 (8) The department shall provide staff support to the advisory  
7 board.

8 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.93.180 and 2015 c 15 s 3 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 (1) There is hereby created an account within the state treasury  
11 to be known as the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control  
12 account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.  
13 Expenditures from the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control  
14 account shall be used as follows:

15 (a) (~~Fifty~~) Forty percent to the department of ecology, for use  
16 by the departments of ecology, natural resources, revenue,  
17 transportation, and corrections, and the parks and recreation  
18 commission, for use in litter collection programs, to be distributed  
19 under RCW 70.93.220. The amount to the department of ecology shall  
20 also be used for a central coordination function for litter control  
21 efforts statewide; for statewide public awareness programs under RCW  
22 70.93.200(7); and to support employment of youth in litter cleanup as  
23 intended in RCW 70.93.020, and for litter pick up using other  
24 authorized agencies. The amount to the department shall also be used  
25 to defray the costs of administering the funding, coordination, and  
26 oversight of local government programs for waste reduction, litter  
27 control, recycling, and composting so that local governments can  
28 apply one hundred percent of their funding to achieving program  
29 goals. The amount to the department of revenue shall be used to  
30 enforce compliance with the litter tax imposed in chapter 82.19 RCW;

31 (b) (i) Twenty percent to the department for local government  
32 funding programs for waste reduction, litter control, recycling  
33 activities, and composting activities by cities and counties under  
34 RCW 70.93.250, to be administered by the department of ecology; (ii)  
35 any unspent funds under (b) (i) of this subsection may be used to  
36 create and pay for a matching fund competitive grant program to be  
37 used by local governments for the development and implementation of  
38 contamination reduction and outreach plans for inclusion in  
39 comprehensive solid waste management plans or by local governments

1 and nonprofit organizations for local or statewide education programs  
2 designed to help the public with litter control, waste reduction,  
3 recycling, and composting of primarily the products taxed under  
4 chapter 82.19 RCW. Grants must adhere to the following requirements:  
5 (A) No grant may exceed sixty thousand dollars; (B) grant recipients  
6 shall match the grant funding allocated by the department by an  
7 amount equal to twenty-five percent of eligible expenses. A local  
8 government's share of these costs may be met by cash or contributed  
9 services; (C) the obligation of the department to make grant payments  
10 is contingent upon the availability of the amount of money  
11 appropriated for this subsection (1)(b); and (D) grants are managed  
12 under the guidelines for existing grant programs; and

13 (c) (~~Thirty~~) Forty percent to the department of ecology to: (i)  
14 Implement activities under RCW 70.93.200 for waste reduction,  
15 recycling, and composting efforts; (ii) provide technical assistance  
16 to local governments (~~for~~) and commercial (~~business—and~~  
17 ~~residential~~) businesses to increase recycling markets and recycling  
18 and composting programs primarily for the products taxed under  
19 chapter 82.19 RCW designed to educate citizens about waste reduction,  
20 litter control, and recyclable and compostable products and programs;  
21 and (iii) increase access to waste reduction, composting, and  
22 recycling programs, particularly for food packaging and plastic bags  
23 and appropriate composting techniques.

24 (2) All taxes imposed in RCW 82.19.010 and fines and bail  
25 forfeitures collected or received pursuant to this chapter shall be  
26 deposited in the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control  
27 account and used for the programs under subsection (1) of this  
28 section.

29 (3) Not less than five percent and no more than ten percent of  
30 the amount appropriated into the waste reduction, recycling, and  
31 litter control account every biennium shall be reserved for capital  
32 needs, including the purchase of vehicles for transporting crews and  
33 for collecting litter and solid waste. Capital funds shall be  
34 distributed among state agencies and local governments according to  
35 the same criteria provided in RCW 70.93.220 for the remainder of the  
36 funds, so that the most effective waste reduction, litter control,  
37 recycling, and composting programs receive the most funding. The  
38 intent of this subsection is to provide funds for the purchase of  
39 equipment that will enable the department to account for the greatest  
40 return on investment in terms of reaching a zero litter goal.

1 (4) Funds in the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control  
2 account, collected under chapter 82.19 RCW, must be prioritized for  
3 the products identified under RCW 82.19.020 solely for the purposes  
4 of recycling, composting, and litter collection, reduction, and  
5 control programs.

6 **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.95.090 and 1991 c 298 s 3 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Each county and city comprehensive solid waste management plan  
9 shall include the following:

10 (1) A detailed inventory and description of all existing solid  
11 waste handling facilities including an inventory of any deficiencies  
12 in meeting current solid waste handling needs.

13 (2) The estimated long-range needs for solid waste handling  
14 facilities projected twenty years into the future.

15 (3) A program for the orderly development of solid waste handling  
16 facilities in a manner consistent with the plans for the entire  
17 county which shall:

18 (a) Meet the minimum functional standards for solid waste  
19 handling adopted by the department and all laws and regulations  
20 relating to air and water pollution, fire prevention, flood control,  
21 and protection of public health;

22 (b) Take into account the comprehensive land use plan of each  
23 jurisdiction;

24 (c) Contain a six year construction and capital acquisition  
25 program for solid waste handling facilities; and

26 (d) Contain a plan for financing both capital costs and  
27 operational expenditures of the proposed solid waste management  
28 system.

29 (4) A program for surveillance and control.

30 (5) A current inventory and description of solid waste collection  
31 needs and operations within each respective jurisdiction which shall  
32 include:

33 (a) Any franchise for solid waste collection granted by the  
34 utilities and transportation commission in the respective  
35 jurisdictions including the name of the holder of the franchise and  
36 the address of his or her place of business and the area covered by  
37 the franchise;

38 (b) Any city solid waste operation within the county and the  
39 boundaries of such operation;



1 (c) The population density of each area serviced by a city  
2 operation or by a franchised operation within the respective  
3 jurisdictions;

4 (d) The projected solid waste collection needs for the respective  
5 jurisdictions for the next six years.

6 (6) A comprehensive waste reduction and recycling element that,  
7 in accordance with the priorities established in RCW 70.95.010,  
8 provides programs that (a) reduce the amount of waste generated, (b)  
9 provide incentives and mechanisms for source separation, and (c)  
10 establish recycling opportunities for the source separated waste.

11 (7) The waste reduction and recycling element shall include the  
12 following:

13 (a) Waste reduction strategies;

14 (b) Source separation strategies, including:

15 (i) Programs for the collection of source separated materials  
16 from residences in urban and rural areas. In urban areas, these  
17 programs shall include collection of source separated recyclable  
18 materials from single and multiple-family residences, unless the  
19 department approves an alternative program, according to the criteria  
20 in the planning guidelines. Such criteria shall include: Anticipated  
21 recovery rates and levels of public participation, availability of  
22 environmentally sound disposal capacity, access to markets for  
23 recyclable materials, unreasonable cost impacts on the ratepayer over  
24 the six-year planning period, utilization of environmentally sound  
25 waste reduction and recycling technologies, and other factors as  
26 appropriate. In rural areas, these programs shall include but not be  
27 limited to drop-off boxes, buy-back centers, or a combination of  
28 both, at each solid waste transfer, processing, or disposal site, or  
29 at locations convenient to the residents of the county. The drop-off  
30 boxes and buy-back centers may be owned or operated by public,  
31 nonprofit, or private persons;

32 (ii) Programs to monitor the collection of source separated waste  
33 at nonresidential sites where there is sufficient density to sustain  
34 a program;

35 (iii) Programs to collect yard waste, if the county or city  
36 submitting the plan finds that there are adequate markets or capacity  
37 for composted yard waste within or near the service area to consume  
38 the majority of the material collected; and

39 (iv) Programs to educate and promote the concepts of waste  
40 reduction and recycling;

1 (c) Recycling strategies, including a description of markets for  
2 recyclables, a review of waste generation trends, a description of  
3 waste composition, a discussion and description of existing programs  
4 and any additional programs needed to assist public and private  
5 sector recycling, and an implementation schedule for the designation  
6 of specific materials to be collected for recycling, and for the  
7 provision of recycling collection services;

8 (d) Other information the county or city submitting the plan  
9 determines is necessary.

10 (8) An assessment of the plan's impact on the costs of solid  
11 waste collection. The assessment shall be prepared in conformance  
12 with guidelines established by the utilities and transportation  
13 commission. The commission shall cooperate with the Washington state  
14 association of counties and the association of Washington cities in  
15 establishing such guidelines.

16 (9) A review of potential areas that meet the criteria as  
17 outlined in RCW 70.95.165.

18 (10) A contamination reduction and outreach plan. The  
19 contamination reduction and outreach plan must address reducing  
20 contamination in recycling. By July 1, 2021, a contamination  
21 reduction and outreach plan must be included in each solid waste  
22 management plan by a plan amendment or included when revising or  
23 updating a solid waste management plan developed under this chapter.  
24 Jurisdictions may adopt the state's contamination reduction and  
25 outreach plan as developed under RCW 70.95.100 in lieu of creating  
26 their own plan. A recycling contamination reduction and outreach plan  
27 must include the following:

28 (a) A list of actions for reducing contamination in recycling  
29 programs for single-family and multifamily residences, commercial  
30 locations, and drop boxes depending on the jurisdictions system  
31 components;

32 (b) A list of key contaminants identified by the jurisdiction or  
33 identified by the department;

34 (c) A discussion of problem contaminants and the contaminants'  
35 impact on the collection system;

36 (d) An analysis of the costs and other impacts associated with  
37 contaminants to the recycling system; and

38 (e) An implementation schedule and details of how outreach is to  
39 be conducted. Contamination reduction education methods may include  
40 sharing community-wide messaging through newsletters, articles,

1 mailers, social media, web sites, or community events, informing  
2 recycling drop box customers about contamination, and improving  
3 signage.

4 **Sec. 7.** RCW 70.95.100 and 1989 c 431 s 6 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The department or the commission, as appropriate, shall  
7 provide to counties and cities technical assistance including, but  
8 not limited to, planning guidelines, in the preparation, review, and  
9 revision of solid waste management plans required by this chapter.  
10 Guidelines prepared under this section shall be consistent with the  
11 provisions of this chapter. Guidelines for the preparation of the  
12 waste reduction and recycling element of the comprehensive solid  
13 waste management plan shall be completed by the department by March  
14 15, 1990. These guidelines shall provide recommendations to local  
15 government on materials to be considered for designation as  
16 recyclable materials. The state solid waste management plan prepared  
17 pursuant to RCW 70.95.260 shall be consistent with these guidelines.

18 (2) The department shall be responsible for development and  
19 implementation of a comprehensive statewide public information  
20 program designed to encourage waste reduction, source separation, and  
21 recycling by the public. The department shall operate a toll free  
22 hotline to provide the public information on waste reduction and  
23 recycling.

24 (3) The department shall provide technical assistance to local  
25 governments in the development and dissemination of informational  
26 materials and related activities to assure recognition of unique  
27 local waste reduction and recycling programs.

28 (4) (a) The department must create and implement a statewide  
29 recycling contamination reduction and outreach plan based on best  
30 management practices for recycling, developed with stakeholder input  
31 by July 1, 2020. Jurisdictions may use the statewide plan in lieu of  
32 developing their own plan.

33 (b) The department must provide technical assistance and create  
34 guidance to help local jurisdictions determine the extent of  
35 contamination in their regional recycling and to develop  
36 contamination reduction and outreach plans. Contamination means any  
37 material not included on the local jurisdiction's acceptance list.

38 (c) Contamination reduction education methods may include sharing  
39 community-wide messaging through newsletters, articles, mailers,

1 social media, web sites, or community events, informing recycling  
2 drop box customers about contamination, and improving signage.

3 (5) Local governments shall make all materials and information  
4 developed with the assistance grants provided under RCW 70.95.130  
5 available to the department for potential use in other areas of the  
6 state.

7 **Sec. 8.** RCW 70.95.130 and 1969 ex.s. c 134 s 13 are each amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 Any county may apply to the department on a form prescribed  
10 thereby for financial aid for the preparation and implementation of  
11 the comprehensive county plan for solid waste management required by  
12 RCW 70.95.080, including contamination reduction and outreach plans.  
13 Any city electing to prepare an independent city plan, a joint city  
14 plan, or a joint county-city plan for solid waste management for  
15 inclusion in the county comprehensive plan may apply for financial  
16 aid for such purpose through the county. Every city application for  
17 financial aid for planning shall be filed with the county auditor and  
18 shall be included as a part of the county's application for financial  
19 aid. Any city preparing an independent plan shall provide for  
20 disposal sites wholly within its jurisdiction.

21 The department shall allocate to the counties and cities applying  
22 for financial aid for planning and implementation, including  
23 contamination reduction and outreach plan development and  
24 implementation, such funds as may be available pursuant to  
25 legislative appropriations or from any federal grants for such  
26 purpose.

27 The department shall determine priorities and allocate available  
28 funds among the counties and cities applying for aid according to  
29 criteria established by regulations of the department considering  
30 population, urban development, environmental effects of waste  
31 disposal, existing waste handling practices, and the local  
32 justification of their proposed expenditures.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act  
34 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
36 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of

1 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
2 effect July 1, 2019.

--- **END** ---