

---

**SENATE BILL 6496**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lovelett, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Nguyen, Saldaña, Stanford, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/20/20. Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology.

1 AN ACT Relating to the electrification of homes and buildings;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 35.92 RCW; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 54.16 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

6 (1) Programs for the electrification of homes and buildings have  
7 the potential to allow electric utilities to optimize the use of  
8 electric grid infrastructure, improve the management of electric  
9 loads, better manage the integration of variable renewable energy  
10 resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector,  
11 and improve indoor air quality.

12 (2) Legislative clarity is important for utilities to offer  
13 programs and services, including incentives, in the electrification  
14 of homes and buildings for their customers. It is the intent of the  
15 legislature to achieve parity among all electric utilities so that  
16 each utility, depending on its unique circumstances, can determine  
17 its appropriate role in advancing home and building electrification  
18 for its customers.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.92  
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The governing authority of an electric utility formed under  
2 this chapter may adopt a beneficial electrification plan that  
3 establishes a finding that utility outreach and investment in the  
4 electrification of homes and buildings is in the public interest.

5 (2) In adopting a beneficial electrification plan under  
6 subsection (1) of this section, the governing authority may consider  
7 some or all of the following:

8 (a) The applicability of multiple options for electrification of  
9 various energy end-uses or other energy sources;

10 (b) The impact of beneficial electrification on the electric  
11 utility's load and whether demand response or other load management  
12 opportunities, including direct load control and dynamic pricing, are  
13 operationally appropriate;

14 (c) An assessment of conservation measures to offset load impacts  
15 of beneficial electrification;

16 (d) System reliability and distribution system efficiencies;

17 (e) The opportunity for greenhouse gas emission reductions,  
18 consistent with the emission reduction targets recommended by the  
19 department of ecology under RCW 70.235.040;

20 (f) The opportunity for indoor and outdoor air quality benefits  
21 to utility customers; and

22 (g) The overall benefits and costs of planned action, including  
23 the cost of greenhouse gas emissions calculated pursuant to RCW  
24 80.28.405.

25 (3) In adopting a beneficial electrification plan under  
26 subsection (1) of this section, the governing authority of an  
27 electric utility formed under this chapter must prioritize the  
28 allocation of benefits to vulnerable populations in the electric  
29 utility's service territory.

30 (4) An electric utility formed under this chapter may, upon  
31 making a determination in accordance with subsection (1) of this  
32 section, offer incentives and other programs to accelerate the  
33 beneficial electrification of homes and buildings for its customers,  
34 including the promotion of electrically-powered equipment,  
35 advertising beneficial electrification programs and projects,  
36 educational programs, and customer incentives or rebates.

37 (5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
38 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

39 (a) "Beneficial electrification" means electrification of an  
40 energy end-use in a way that provides a net benefit to the utility or

1 utility customers by improving the management of the electric grid,  
2 reducing customer costs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the  
3 buildings sector, improving indoor and outdoor air quality, or other  
4 public interest benefits.

5 (b) "Vulnerable populations" means communities that experience a  
6 disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to:

7 (i) Adverse socioeconomic factors including, but not limited to,  
8 unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to  
9 income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and  
10 (ii) sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates  
11 of hospitalization.

12 (6) Nothing in this section limits the existing authority of an  
13 electric utility formed under this chapter to offer incentives and  
14 other programs to accelerate the electrification of homes and  
15 buildings for its customers if such electrification is in the direct  
16 economic interest of the electric utility or its customers.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 54.16  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The commission of a public utility district may adopt a  
20 beneficial electrification plan that establishes a finding that  
21 outreach and investment in the electrification of homes and buildings  
22 is in the public interest.

23 (2) In adopting a beneficial electrification plan under  
24 subsection (1) of this section, the commission of a public utility  
25 district may consider some or all of the following:

26 (a) The applicability of multiple options for electrification of  
27 various energy end-uses or other energy sources;

28 (b) The impact of beneficial electrification on the district's  
29 load and whether demand response or other load management  
30 opportunities, including direct load control and dynamic pricing, are  
31 operationally appropriate;

32 (c) An assessment of conservation measures to offset load impacts  
33 of beneficial electrification;

34 (d) System reliability and distribution system efficiencies;

35 (e) The opportunity for greenhouse gas emission reductions,  
36 consistent with the emission reduction targets recommended by the  
37 department of ecology under RCW 70.235.040;

38 (f) The opportunity for indoor and outdoor air quality benefits  
39 to utility customers; and

1 (g) The overall benefits and costs of planned action, including  
2 the cost of greenhouse gas emissions calculated pursuant to RCW  
3 80.28.405.

4 (3) In adopting a beneficial electrification plan under  
5 subsection (1) of this section, the commission of a public utility  
6 district must prioritize the allocation of benefits to vulnerable  
7 populations in the district's service territory.

8 (4) A public utility district may, upon making a determination in  
9 accordance with subsection (1) of this section, offer incentives and  
10 other programs to accelerate the beneficial electrification of homes  
11 and buildings for its customers, including the promotion of  
12 electrically-powered equipment, advertising beneficial  
13 electrification programs and projects, educational programs, and  
14 customer incentives or rebates.

15 (5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
16 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (a) "Beneficial electrification" means electrification of an  
18 energy end-use in a way that provides a net benefit to the public  
19 utility district or its customers by improving the management of the  
20 electric grid, reducing customer costs, reducing greenhouse gas  
21 emissions from the buildings sector, improving indoor and outdoor air  
22 quality, or other public interest benefits.

23 (b) "Vulnerable populations" means communities that experience a  
24 disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to:  
25 (i) Adverse socioeconomic factors including, but not limited to,  
26 unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to  
27 income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and  
28 (ii) sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates  
29 of hospitalization.

30 (6) Nothing in this section limits the existing authority of the  
31 commission of a public utility district to offer incentives and other  
32 programs to accelerate the electrification of homes and buildings for  
33 its customers if such electrification is in the direct economic  
34 interest of the public utility district or its customers.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its  
36 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the

1 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
2 persons or circumstances is not affected.

--- **END** ---