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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6010**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1994 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser and Sutherland)

Read first time 02/01/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to scientific review; adding a new chapter to Title  
2 43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

5 (a) Scientific research and findings are a necessary part of the  
6 identification of public health and environmental quality problems and  
7 the development of responses by governmental agencies to those  
8 problems;

9 (b) State and local agencies have limited funding available to  
10 conduct basic scientific research relating to public health and  
11 environmental problems, and therefore must rely extensively upon  
12 scientific information available from other sources, such as research  
13 conducted by colleges and universities, the private sector, and the  
14 federal government; and

15 (c) Existing mechanisms for the sharing of scientific information  
16 and peer review of scientific findings could be strengthened by  
17 adopting model procedures that state agencies, local governments, and  
18 the legislature may use to access scientific expertise within the  
19 public universities and colleges in the state.

1 (2) Therefore it is the intent of the legislature by this chapter  
2 to require the establishment of a procedure for sharing scientific  
3 views and information between academic institutions and government  
4 agencies, and to investigate further measures to integrate scientific  
5 information into the earliest stage of significant government action or  
6 policy development. It is further the intent of the legislature that  
7 such procedures shall be on an advisory basis only, and shall not  
8 affect the jurisdiction of agencies participating in these procedures  
9 within their statutory authority to adopt rules or take other actions.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By July 1, 1995, the governor shall  
11 develop model procedures for the provision of scientific information  
12 and peer review by specialists at public higher education institutions  
13 to state agencies, the legislature, and local government. This process  
14 is to be considered as supplemental to other science information  
15 consultation mechanisms and shall not affect any such mechanisms except  
16 as each agency shall determine. The governor shall consult with the  
17 science information coordinators designated in section 3 of this act  
18 and relevant state and local jurisdictions in developing the model  
19 procedures for scientific information and peer review.

20 (2) The model should include:

21 (a) Methods for identifying persons at the universities with  
22 expertise in the subject being reviewed and obtaining their  
23 participation in the review and consultation;

24 (b) Methods by which state agencies may request assistance in  
25 obtaining existing scientific research data;

26 (c) Criteria to determine the agency actions for which scientific  
27 peer review will be initiated;

28 (d) Methods to strengthen existing information sharing systems in  
29 order to keep state agencies apprised of current research results  
30 relevant to their programs;

31 (e) The procedure by which local governments may request assistance  
32 in obtaining existing scientific research data; and

33 (f) Methods to include private scientific research institutions or  
34 other private sector sources of scientific expertise in the  
35 consultation procedures.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) The following colleges and universities  
2 shall appoint a science information coordinator to assist the governor  
3 in the development of model procedures under section 2 of this act:

- 4        (a) University of Washington;
- 5        (b) Washington State University;
- 6        (c) Western Washington University;
- 7        (d) Eastern Washington University;
- 8        (e) Central Washington University; and
- 9        (f) The Evergreen State College.

10       (2) The coordinators shall assist agencies employing procedures for  
11 scientific information consultation in using the scientific resources  
12 of the higher education institution.

13       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    The house of representatives and the senate  
14 may use the scientific information consultation procedures developed  
15 under section 2 of this act, and the coordinators appointed by the  
16 higher education institutions under section 3 of this act shall provide  
17 assistance in requests made by the house of representatives and the  
18 senate for this purpose.

19       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    The governor's task force on regulatory  
20 reform, created by executive order 93-06, shall develop recommendations  
21 for procedures to ensure that accurate and available scientific  
22 information is obtained and considered as early as possible in the  
23 development of actions or rules with significant regulatory impact.  
24 The task force shall also identify the types of rules that would  
25 require scientific review, and the agencies that should employ such  
26 procedures. The report under this section shall be provided no later  
27 than December 1, 1994, and may be incorporated with any other reports  
28 provided under executive order 93-06.

29       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall  
30 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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