
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6559

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Swecker, Hochstatter, Kohl, Fairley and Franklin)

Read first time 01/31/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing and maintaining a state-wide
2 benchmarks system; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the state of
5 Washington recognizes that economic growth cannot be sustained if our
6 human and natural resources are continually exhausted, and only healthy
7 economies generate the resources for continual investment in social,
8 cultural, and environmental protection. The quality of life in our
9 state is sustainable into the future to the extent that both a healthy
10 environment and healthy economy are achieved.

11 (2) The legislature further finds that it is important to measure
12 progress toward achieving these goals through the regular reporting on
13 state-wide benchmarks, which are quantifiable measures of progress
14 towards economic, environmental, and social goals. A benchmarks system
15 can increase governmental efficiency and accountability by providing
16 periodic feedback on state policies and programs. Benchmarks also
17 provide a means for government agencies to communicate with citizens
18 about long-term trends and progress toward these goals.

1 (3) It is the intent of the legislature to authorize a study to
2 explore the feasibility of developing and maintaining a state-wide
3 benchmarks system.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The institute of public policy and
5 management at the University of Washington shall prepare a report with
6 recommendations that:

7 (a) Reviews and evaluates past and ongoing efforts in Washington to
8 determine appropriate goals, selects indicators that track progress in
9 reaching those goals, and develops methods to measure and track
10 indicators over time. The review shall include completed efforts such
11 as the alternatives for Washington, Washington 2000, environment 2010,
12 and studies prepared for the department of community, trade, and
13 economic development, and ongoing efforts including the work by
14 sustainable Seattle;

15 (b) Reviews and evaluates benchmarks that currently exist in state
16 statute or agency plans for their consistency or conflict with each
17 other or with agency-enabling legislation;

18 (c) Reviews and evaluates the experience of other states in
19 implementing benchmark programs, especially those of Oregon and
20 Connecticut;

21 (d) Surveys local government entities, state agencies, business
22 organizations, and labor, agriculture, and citizen interest groups to
23 assess the interest and usefulness of a unified, consistent benchmarks
24 system in linking their individual performance goals to a broader
25 vision of sustainable future progress for the state as a whole; and

26 (e) Outlines a recommended benchmarks development process, that
27 would work with local governments, citizen organizations, state
28 agencies, and business groups to reconcile conflicts and integrate
29 current goal-tracking systems into a simple, coordinated, long-term,
30 and maintainable benchmarks system.

31 (2) The study should address issues related to the accessibility
32 and utility of the benchmarks information, and its connection to growth
33 management plans and state agency budgets. This effort should
34 incorporate and not duplicate the work being done by the economic
35 climate council created in chapter . . ., Laws of 1996 (Senate Bill No.
36 6618).

37 (3) The study shall be submitted to the appropriate committee of
38 the legislature by January 1, 1997.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of thirty thousand dollars, or as
2 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
3 ending June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the University of
4 Washington for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

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