
SENATE BILL 6559

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Swecker, Hochstatter, Kohl, Fairley and Franklin

Read first time 01/17/96. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

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 that
6 reviews and evaluates:

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

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

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

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

25 (e) A benchmarks development process, developed by working with
26 local governments, citizen organizations, state agencies, and business
27 groups to reconcile conflicts and integrate current goal-tracking
28 systems into a simple, coordinated, long-term, and maintainable
29 benchmarks system.

30 (2) The study should address issues related to alternative
31 approaches, the accessibility and uses of the benchmarks information,
32 and the connection to growth management plans and state agency budgets.

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

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of thirty thousand dollars, or as
36 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium

1 ending June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the University of
2 Washington for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

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