

2 **SSB 5674** - S AMD 138
3 By Senators Constantine and Hargrove

4 ADOPTED 03/13/01

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 **"NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following
8 findings:

9 (1) The recent consensus report of the world's climate research
10 community has concluded that significant climate change arising from
11 pollutants generated by human activity is already underway.

12 (2) The best available analyses by northwest climate experts now
13 indicate a projected doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is
14 now expected to increase the average temperature in Washington state
15 four to seven degrees over the next fifty years.

16 (3) Such changes are likely to have major, adverse impacts on the
17 state's environment and economy.

18 (4) The citizens of Washington state have consistently demonstrated
19 global scientific, technological, and policy leadership.

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

22 (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the Washington climate
23 center.

24 (2) "Center" means the Washington climate center.

25 (3) "Climate change" means a change of climate attributed directly
26 or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the
27 global atmosphere.

28 (4) "Emissions" means the release of greenhouse gases.

29 (5) "Emitter" means the entity releasing greenhouse gases.

30 (6) "Greenhouse gases" includes carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and
31 natural gas (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

32 **NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 3.** The state legislature authorizes the
33 establishment of an independent, nonprofit organization known as the

1 Washington climate center to serve as a central clearinghouse for all
2 climate change activities in the state.

3 **NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 4.** The center shall be funded through grants
4 and voluntary cash and in-kind contributions.

5 **NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 5.** (1) The activities of the center shall be
6 directed by a board of directors appointed by the governor, for terms
7 of four years, beginning July 1, 2001. The board shall include fifteen
8 members as follows:

9 (a) One member from each major party of the senate as recommended
10 by their leadership;

11 (b) One member from each major party of the house of
12 representatives as recommended by their leadership;

13 (c) One member from the office of the commissioner of public lands;

14 (d) One member from the department of community, trade, and
15 economic development, energy policy group;

16 (e) One member from the Washington State University energy program;

17 (f) Three members from the nonprofit, climate sector;

18 (g) Three members from the business sector; and

19 (h) Two members from the climate academic sector, one representing
20 the University of Washington, climate impacts group.

21 (2) The board shall retain and assign staff and volunteers as the
22 board deems necessary.

23 (3) The Washington State University energy program and the
24 University of Washington climate impacts group may provide technical
25 assistance and research for the center.

26 (4) A vote of a majority of the members of the board shall bind the
27 board.

28 **NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 6.** (1) The duties of the center may include,
29 but are not limited to:

30 (a) Determining current and projected emissions of greenhouse gases
31 in the state;

32 (b) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data
33 related to climate change;

34 (c) Assisting and collecting all climate contingency planning in
35 the state;

- 1 (d) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial
2 opportunities;
- 3 (e) Studying and recommending avenues for reducing short-term and
4 long-term greenhouse gas emissions in the state;
- 5 (f) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods for
6 reducing all net greenhouse gas emissions in the state, taking into
7 consideration the absorption of greenhouse gas emissions through carbon
8 sequestration;
- 9 (g) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods for
10 reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector
11 consistent with federal law;
- 12 (h) Certifying the extent and degree of any mitigation projects;
- 13 (i) Developing adequate methods for the monitoring and verification
14 of mitigation projects; and
- 15 (j) Serving as a central, independent registry available for the
16 trading of emissions credits, if any.
- 17 (2) The center shall:
- 18 (a) Develop and publish its rules of operation, calculations, and
19 methods;
- 20 (b) Accomplish any other duty assigned to it by the legislature for
21 which adequate funding is provided; and
- 22 (c) Provide an annual report to the governor and legislature by
23 December 31st regarding its operations, including the status of
24 greenhouse gas emissions in the state.
- 25 (3) The center shall, within available funds, also:
- 26 (a) Identify key sectors within the state likely to be affected
27 adversely by climate change;
- 28 (b) Examine and report the feasibility of a carbon storage program
29 for the state by:
- 30 (i) Evaluating other states' and nations' attempts to establish
31 carbon credit programs, carbon storage programs, carbon storage
32 requirements worldwide, and methods and scientific programs that are
33 used to implement carbon storage programs;
- 34 (ii) Analyzing other programs in the state of Washington, including
35 the conservation reserve enhancement program, that could facilitate a
36 carbon storage program and a stable carbon storage market;
- 37 (iii) Analyzing methods to encourage and increase appropriate
38 carbon storage activities; and

1 (iv) Developing and preparing appropriate legislative responses and
2 recommendations;

3 (c) Notify and convene meetings of key members of those sectors;
4 (d) Provide relevant scientific and technological information to
5 the public and key sectors;

6 (e) Support a collaborative response to assist those sectors; and
7 (f) Assist in the creation of effective contingency planning for
8 those sectors.

9 (4) The following agencies and programs shall work with the center
10 to assist with the duties under this section: The department of
11 community, trade, and economic development, the department of ecology,
12 the department of transportation, the department of health, the
13 department of fish and wildlife, the department of agriculture, the
14 department of natural resources, and the Washington State University
15 energy program.

16 (5) The board may establish task forces and technical advisory
17 committees composed of state and local agencies, businesses, labor
18 groups, timber industry groups, agricultural groups, nonprofit
19 organizations, university and college programs, and interested groups
20 and citizens as necessary to assist in the duties in this section.

21 **NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 7.** (1) All emitters of greenhouse gases are
22 encouraged to seek mitigation of their emissions.

23 (2) Upon a request, accompanied with adequate funding, the center
24 may:

25 (a) Assist any emitter in selecting mitigation projects;
26 (b) Determine and certify the amount of mitigation accomplished by
27 any mitigation project; and
28 (c) Determine what monitoring and verification standards would be
29 useful in the evaluation of mitigation projects.

30 **NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 8.** The center shall publicize successful
31 mitigation projects and efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse
32 gases.

33 **NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
35 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
36 July 1, 2001.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW."

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6 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "change;" strike the
7 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new chapter to Title 70
8 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency."

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