
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6619

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Water (originally sponsored by Senators Poulsen, Jacobsen, Fraser, Morton, Regala and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/2002.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington climate and rural energy
2 development center; adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; and providing
3 an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following
6 findings:

7 (1) A vast and growing body of research and information about
8 changes to our global, national, and regional climates is being
9 produced by a variety of sources.

10 (2) Much of this research and information holds important value in
11 helping scientists, citizens, businesses, and public policymakers
12 understand how Washington may be affected by these changes.

13 (3) It is in the public interest to support efforts to promote
14 discussion and understanding of the potential effects of climate change
15 on Washington's water supply, agriculture, natural resources, coastal
16 infrastructure, public health, and economy, and to encourage the
17 formulation of sound recommendations for avoiding, mitigating, and
18 responding to those effects.

1 (4) The state should support the establishment of a central
2 clearinghouse to serve as an impartial, unbiased source of credible and
3 reliable information about climate change for the public.

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

6 (1) "Center" means the Washington climate and rural energy
7 development center.

8 (2) "Clean energy activities" means: (a) Activities related to
9 renewable resources including electricity generation facilities fueled
10 by water, wind, solar energy, geothermal energy, landfill gas, or
11 bioenergy; (b) programs and industries promoting research, development,
12 or commercialization of qualified alternative energy resources as
13 defined in RCW 19.29A.090; (c) energy efficiency measures or
14 technologies; and (d) technologies designed to significantly reduce the
15 use of or emissions from motor vehicle fuels.

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

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

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

21 (6) "Greenhouse gases" includes carbon dioxide, methane and natural
22 gas, and nitrous oxide.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislature authorizes the establishment
24 of the Washington climate and rural energy development center in the
25 Washington State University energy program to serve as a central,
26 nonregulatory clearinghouse of credible and reliable information
27 addressing various aspects of climate change and clean energy
28 activities.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center shall be funded through grants,
30 and voluntary monetary and in-kind contributions.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The duties of the center may include,
32 but are not limited to:

33 (a) Determining current and projected emissions of greenhouse gases
34 in the state;

1 (b) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data
2 related to climate change;

3 (c) Collecting and sharing information which could be used on a
4 voluntary basis to respond to potential climate change impacts should
5 they occur;

6 (d) Collecting and sharing information about clean energy
7 activities in the rural areas of the state, including information about
8 state resources available for developing such clean energy
9 opportunities;

10 (e) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial
11 opportunities;

12 (f) Collecting and sharing information about methods for reducing
13 greenhouse gas emissions in the state;

14 (g) Studying and advising the legislature on the potential: (i)
15 Impacts of climate change in the state; and (ii) effects of early
16 action by the state, before action by the federal government or other
17 state governments, on the state's competitive position with respect to
18 other states;

19 (h) Researching and providing information about monitoring,
20 verifying, or certifying greenhouse gas reduction programs and
21 projects, including programs for the commercial exchange of any credits
22 or other items of value from greenhouse gas reduction activities;

23 (i) Accomplishing any other duty assigned to it by the legislature
24 for which adequate funding is provided; and

25 (j) Providing an annual report to the governor and legislature by
26 December 31st regarding its operations, including the status of
27 greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

28 (2) The center shall, within available funds, also:

29 (a) Identify key sectors within the state likely to be affected
30 adversely by climate change;

31 (b) Examine and report the feasibility of a carbon storage program
32 for the state by:

33 (i) Evaluating other states' and nations' attempts to establish
34 carbon credit programs, carbon storage programs, carbon storage
35 requirements worldwide, and methods and scientific programs that are
36 used to implement carbon storage programs;

37 (ii) Analyzing other programs in the state of Washington, including
38 the conservation reserve enhancement program, that could facilitate a
39 carbon storage program and a stable carbon storage market;

1 (iii) Analyzing methods to encourage and increase appropriate
2 carbon storage activities; and

3 (iv) Developing and preparing appropriate legislative responses and
4 recommendations; and

5 (c) Publicize mitigation projects and efforts to reduce greenhouse
6 gases that include evaluations of whether those efforts were deemed to
7 be successful.

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

15 (4) The legislature may appoint one member from each legislative
16 caucus to serve on a legislative oversight committee for the center.

17 (5) The center shall establish task forces and technical advisory
18 committees, balanced in representation and composed of state and local
19 agencies and interested elected leaders, industrial emitters of
20 greenhouse gases, businesses, labor groups, timber industry groups,
21 agricultural groups, nonprofit organizations, university and college
22 programs, and citizens as necessary to assist in the duties in this
23 section.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2002.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute
26 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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