E3SHB 2939 - S AMD 356 By Senator Rockefeller

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ADOPTED 03/02/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the 2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that:

- (1) Washington's dependence on energy supplied from outside the state and volatile global energy markets makes its economy and citizens vulnerable to unpredictable and high energy prices;
- (2) Washington's dependence on petroleum-based fuels increases energy costs for citizens and businesses;
- (3) Diesel soot from diesel engines ranks as the highest toxic air pollutant in Washington, leading to hundreds of premature deaths and increasing rates of asthma and other lung diseases;
- 12 (4) The use of biodiesel results in significantly less air 13 pollution than traditional diesel fuels;
 - (5) Improper disposal and treatment of organic waste from farms and livestock operations can have a significant negative impact on water quality;
 - (6) Washington has abundant supplies of organic wastes from farms that can be used for energy production and abundant farmland where crops could be grown to supplement or supplant petroleum-based fuels;
 - (7) The use of energy and fuel derived from these sources can help citizens and businesses conserve energy and reduce the use of petroleum-based fuels, would improve air and water quality in Washington, reduce environmental risks from farm wastes, create new markets for farm products, and provide new industries and jobs for Washington citizens;
- 26 (8) The bioenergy industry is a new and developing industry that 27 is, in part, limited by the availability of capital for the 28 construction of facilities for converting farm and forest products into 29 energy and fuels;

1 (9) Instead of leaving our economy at the mercy of global events, 2 and the policies of foreign nations, Washington state should adopt a 3 policy of energy independence; and

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(10) The energy freedom program is meant to lead Washington state towards energy independence.

Therefore, the legislature finds that it is in the public interest 6 7 to encourage the rapid adoption and use of bioenergy, to develop a viable bioenergy industry within Washington state, to promote public 8 research and development in bioenergy sources and markets, and to 9 support a viable agriculture industry to grow bioenergy crops. 10 accomplish this, the energy freedom program is established to promote 11 public research and development in bioenergy, and to stimulate the 12 13 construction of facilities in Washington to generate energy from farm sources or convert organic matter into fuels. 14

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
 - (1) "Applicant" means any political subdivision of the state, including port districts, counties, cities, towns, special purpose districts, and other municipal corporations or quasi-municipal corporations. "Applicant" may also include federally recognized tribes and state institutions of higher education with appropriate research capabilities.
- 23 (2) "Assistance" includes loans, leases, product purchases, or 24 other forms of financial or technical assistance.
 - (3) "Department" means the department of agriculture.
 - (4) "Director" means the director of the department of agriculture.
 - (5) "Peer review committee" means a board, appointed by the director, that includes bioenergy specialists, energy conservation specialists, scientists, and individuals with specific recognized expertise.
- 31 (6) "Project" means the construction of facilities, including the 32 purchase of equipment, to convert farm products or wastes into 33 electricity or gaseous or liquid fuels or other coproducts associated 34 with such conversion. These specifically include fixed or mobile 35 facilities to generate electricity or methane from the anaerobic 36 digestion of organic matter, and fixed or mobile facilities for 37 extracting oils from canola, rape, mustard, and other oilseeds.

- 1 "Project" may also include the construction of facilities associated 2 with such conversion for the distribution and storage of such 3 feedstocks and fuels.
 - (7) "Research and development project" means research and development, by an institution of higher education as defined in subsection (1) of this section, relating to:
- 7 (a) Bioenergy sources including but not limited to biomass and 8 associated gases; or
 - (b) The development of markets for bioenergy coproducts.

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- NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The energy freedom program is established within the department. The director may establish policies and procedures necessary for processing, reviewing, and approving applications made under this chapter.
 - (2) When reviewing applications submitted under this program, the director shall consult with those agencies having expertise and knowledge to assess the technical and business feasibility of the project and probability of success. These agencies may include, but are not limited to, Washington State University, the University of Washington, the department of ecology, the department of community, trade, and economic development, and the Washington state conservation commission.
- 22 (3) The director, in cooperation with the department of community, 23 trade, and economic development, may approve an application only if the 24 director finds:
 - (a) The project will convert farm products or wastes directly into electricity or into gaseous or liquid fuels or other coproducts associated with such conversion;
 - (b) The project demonstrates technical feasibility and directly assists in moving a commercially viable project into the marketplace for use by Washington state citizens;
 - (c) The facility will produce long-term economic benefits to the state, a region of the state, or a particular community in the state;
 - (d) The project does not require continuing state support;
- 34 (e) The assistance will result in new jobs, job retention, or 35 higher incomes for citizens of the state;
- 36 (f) The state is provided an option under the assistance agreement

to purchase a portion of the fuel or feedstock to be produced by the project, exercisable by the department of general administration;

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- (g) The project will increase energy independence or diversity for the state;
 - (h) The project will use feedstocks produced in the state, if feasible, except this criterion does not apply to the construction of facilities used to distribute and store fuels that are produced from farm products or wastes;
 - (i) Any product produced by the project will be suitable for its intended use, will meet accepted national or state standards, and will be stored and distributed in a safe and environmentally sound manner;
 - (j) The application provides for adequate reporting or disclosure of financial and employment data to the director, and permits the director to require an annual or other periodic audit of the project books; and
 - (k) For research and development projects, the application has been independently reviewed by a peer review committee as defined in section 2 of this act and the findings delivered to the director.
 - (4) The director may approve an application for assistance up to five million dollars. In no circumstances shall this assistance constitute more than fifty percent of the total project cost.
 - (5) The director shall enter into agreements with approved applicants to fix the terms and rates of the assistance to minimize the costs to the applicants, and to encourage establishment of a viable bioenergy industry. The agreement shall include provisions to protect the state's investment, including a requirement that a successful applicant enter into contracts with any partners that may be involved in the use of any assistance provided under this program, including services, facilities, infrastructure, or equipment. Contracts with any partners shall become part of the application record.
- 31 (6) The director may defer any payments for up to twenty-four 32 months or until the project starts to receive revenue from operations, 33 whichever is sooner.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) Upon written notice to the recipient of any assistance under this program, the director may suspend or cancel the assistance if any of the following occur:

1 (a) The recipient fails to make satisfactory and reasonable 2 progress to complete the project, or the director concludes the 3 recipient will be unable to complete the project or any portion of it; 4 or

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- (b) The recipient has made misrepresentations in any information furnished to the director in connection with the project.
- (2) In the event that any assistance has been awarded to the recipient under this program at the time of breach, or failure of the recipient to satisfactorily perform, the director may require that the full amount or value of the assistance, or a portion thereof, be repaid within a period specified by the director.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. If the total requested dollar amount of assistance exceeds the amount available in the energy freedom account created in section 6 of this act, the applications must be prioritized based upon the following criteria:
 - (1) The extent to which the project will help reduce dependence on petroleum fuels and imported energy either directly or indirectly;
 - (2) The extent to which the project will reduce air and water pollution either directly or indirectly;
- 20 (3) The extent to which the project will establish a viable 21 bioenergy production capacity in Washington;
 - (4) The benefits to Washington's agricultural producers; and
- 23 (5) The number and quality of jobs and economic benefits created by 24 the project.
- 25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. The energy freedom account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from appropriations made to the account 26 and any loan payments of principal and interest derived from loans made 27 under this chapter must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the 28 29 account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the 30 account may be used only for assistance for projects consistent with this chapter. Administrative costs of the department may not exceed 31 32 three percent of the total funds available for this program.
- 33 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 7.** The director shall report to the legislature 34 and governor on the status of the energy freedom program created under 35 this chapter, on or before December 1, 2006, and annually thereafter.

- 1 This report must include information on the projects that have been
- 2 funded, the status of these projects, and their environmental, energy
- 3 savings, and job creation benefits.

Sec. 8. RCW 42.56.270 and 2005 c 274 s 407 are each amended to read as follows:

The following financial, commercial, and proprietary information is exempt from disclosure under this chapter:

- (1) Valuable formulae, designs, drawings, computer source code or object code, and research data obtained by any agency within five years of the request for disclosure when disclosure would produce private gain and public loss;
- (2) Financial information supplied by or on behalf of a person, firm, or corporation for the purpose of qualifying to submit a bid or proposal for (a) a ferry system construction or repair contract as required by RCW 47.60.680 through 47.60.750 or (b) highway construction or improvement as required by RCW 47.28.070;
- (3) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by private persons pertaining to export services provided under chapters 43.163 and 53.31 RCW, and by persons pertaining to export projects under RCW 43.23.035;
- (4) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by businesses or individuals during application for loans or program services provided by chapters <u>43.--</u> (sections 2 through 7, 11, and 15 of this act), 43.163, 43.160, 43.330, and 43.168 RCW, or during application for economic development loans or program services provided by any local agency;
- (5) Financial information, business plans, examination reports, and any information produced or obtained in evaluating or examining a business and industrial development corporation organized or seeking certification under chapter 31.24 RCW;
- (6) Financial and commercial information supplied to the state investment board by any person when the information relates to the investment of public trust or retirement funds and when disclosure would result in loss to such funds or in private loss to the providers of this information;
- (7) Financial and valuable trade information under RCW 51.36.120;

(8) Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and research information and data submitted to or obtained by the clean Washington center in applications for, or delivery of, program services under chapter 70.95H RCW;

- (9) Financial and commercial information requested by the public stadium authority from any person or organization that leases or uses the stadium and exhibition center as defined in RCW 36.102.010;
- (10) Financial information, including but not limited to account numbers and values, and other identification numbers supplied by or on behalf of a person, firm, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other entity related to an application for a liquor license, gambling license, or lottery retail license;
- (11) Proprietary data, trade secrets, or other information that relates to: (a) A vendor's unique methods of conducting business; (b) data unique to the product or services of the vendor; or (c) determining prices or rates to be charged for services, submitted by any vendor to the department of social and health services for purposes of the development, acquisition, or implementation of state purchased health care as defined in RCW 41.05.011; and
- (12)(a) When supplied to and in the records of the department of community, trade, and economic development:
- (i) Financial and proprietary information collected from any person and provided to the department of community, trade, and economic development pursuant to RCW 43.330.050(8) and 43.330.080(4); and
- (ii) Financial or proprietary information collected from any person and provided to the department of community, trade, and economic development or the office of the governor in connection with the siting, recruitment, expansion, retention, or relocation of that person's business and until a siting decision is made, identifying information of any person supplying information under this subsection and the locations being considered for siting, relocation, or expansion of a business;
- (b) When developed by the department of community, trade, and economic development based on information as described in (a)(i) of this subsection, any work product is not exempt from disclosure;
- 36 (c) For the purposes of this subsection, "siting decision" means 37 the decision to acquire or not to acquire a site;

(d) If there is no written contact for a period of sixty days to the department of community, trade, and economic development from a person connected with siting, recruitment, expansion, retention, or relocation of that person's business, information described in (a)(ii) of this subsection will be available to the public under this chapter.

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- Sec. 9. RCW 43.84.092 and 2005 c 514 s 1105, 2005 c 353 s 3, 2005
 c 339 s 22, 2005 c 314 s 109, 2005 c 312 s 7, and 2005 c 94 s 1 are
 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- (1) All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the state treasury shall be deposited to the treasury income account, which account is hereby established in the state treasury.
- (2) The treasury income account shall be utilized to pay or receive funds associated with federal programs as required by the federal cash management improvement act of 1990. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for refunds or allocations of interest earnings required by the cash management improvement act. Refunds of interest to the federal treasury required under the cash management improvement act fall under RCW 43.88.180 and shall not require appropriation. office of financial management shall determine the amounts due to or from the federal government pursuant to the cash management improvement The office of financial management may direct transfers of funds between accounts as deemed necessary to implement the provisions of the cash management improvement act, and this subsection. Refunds or allocations shall occur prior to the distributions of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.
- (3) Except for the provisions of RCW 43.84.160, the treasury income account may be utilized for the payment of purchased banking services on behalf of treasury funds including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and disbursement functions for the state treasury and affected state agencies. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.
- (4) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings credited to the treasury income account. The state treasurer shall

credit the general fund with all the earnings credited to the treasury income account except:

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The following accounts and funds shall receive their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's and fund's average daily balance for the period: The capitol building construction account, the Cedar River channel construction and operation account, the Central Washington University capital projects charitable, educational, penal the and institutions account, the common school construction fund, the county criminal justice assistance account, the county sales and use tax equalization account, the data processing building construction account, the deferred compensation administrative account, the deferred compensation principal account, the department of retirement systems expense account, the developmental disabilities community trust account, the drinking water assistance account, the drinking water assistance administrative account, the drinking water assistance repayment account, the Eastern Washington University capital projects account, the education construction fund, the education legacy trust account, the election account, the emergency reserve fund, the energy freedom account, The Evergreen State College capital projects account, the federal forest revolving account, the freight mobility investment account, the health services account, the public health services account, the health system capacity account, the personal health services account, the state higher education construction account, the higher education construction account, the highway infrastructure account, the high-occupancy toll lanes operations account, the industrial insurance premium refund account, the judges' retirement account, the judicial retirement administrative account, the judicial retirement principal account, the local leasehold excise tax account, the local real estate excise tax account, the local sales and use tax account, the medical aid account, the mobile home park relocation fund, the multimodal transportation account, the municipal criminal justice assistance account, the municipal sales and use tax equalization account, the natural resources deposit account, the oyster reserve land account, the perpetual surveillance and maintenance account, the public employees' retirement system plan 1 account, the public employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the public facilities construction loan revolving account beginning July 1, 2004,

the public health supplemental account, the Puyallup tribal settlement 1 2 account, the real estate appraiser commission account, the regional transportation investment district account, the resource management 3 cost account, the rural Washington loan fund, the site closure account, 4 the small city pavement and sidewalk account, the special wildlife 5 account, the state employees' insurance account, the state employees' 6 7 insurance reserve account, the state investment board expense account, the state investment board commingled trust fund accounts, the 8 supplemental pension account, the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge account, 9 10 teachers' retirement system plan 1 account, the teachers' retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the tobacco 11 12 prevention and control account, the tobacco settlement account, the 13 transportation infrastructure account, the transportation partnership 14 account, the tuition recovery trust fund, the University of Washington bond retirement fund, the University of Washington building account, 15 the volunteer fire fighters' and reserve officers' relief and pension 16 principal fund, the volunteer fire fighters' and reserve officers' 17 administrative fund, the Washington fruit express account, the 18 Washington judicial retirement system account, the Washington law 19 enforcement officers' and fire fighters' system plan 1 retirement 20 21 account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' 22 system plan 2 retirement account, the Washington school employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 account, the Washington state 23 24 health insurance pool account, the Washington state patrol retirement 25 account, the Washington State University building account, the Washington State University bond retirement fund, the water pollution 26 27 control revolving fund, and the Western Washington University capital projects account. Earnings derived from investing balances of the 28 agricultural permanent fund, the normal school permanent fund, the 29 permanent common school fund, the scientific permanent fund, and the 30 31 state university permanent fund shall be allocated to their respective 32 beneficiary accounts. All earnings to be distributed under this subsection (4)(a) shall first be reduced by the allocation to the state 33 34 treasurer's service fund pursuant to RCW 43.08.190.

(b) The following accounts and funds shall receive eighty percent of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for the period: The aeronautics account, the aircraft search and rescue account, the county arterial

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preservation account, the department of licensing services account, the 1 2 essential rail assistance account, the ferry bond retirement fund, the grade crossing protective fund, the high capacity transportation 3 account, the highway bond retirement fund, the highway safety account, 4 the motor vehicle fund, the motorcycle safety education account, the 5 pilotage account, the public transportation systems account, the Puget 6 7 Sound capital construction account, the Puget Sound ferry operations account, the recreational vehicle account, the rural arterial trust 8 account, the safety and education account, the special category C 9 account, the state patrol highway account, the transportation 2003 10 account (nickel account), the transportation equipment fund, the 11 transportation fund, the transportation improvement account, the 12 13 transportation improvement board bond retirement account, and the urban 14 arterial trust account.

- 15 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state 16 Constitution, no treasury accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings 17 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.
- 18 **Sec. 10.** RCW 43.84.092 and 2006 c 6 s 8 are each amended to read 19 as follows:
- 20 (1) All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the state 21 treasury shall be deposited to the treasury income account, which 22 account is hereby established in the state treasury.

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(2) The treasury income account shall be utilized to pay or receive funds associated with federal programs as required by the federal cash management improvement act of 1990. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for refunds or allocations of interest earnings required by the cash management improvement act. Refunds of interest to the federal treasury required under the cash management improvement act fall under RCW 43.88.180 and shall not require appropriation. office of financial management shall determine the amounts due to or from the federal government pursuant to the cash management improvement act. The office of financial management may direct transfers of funds between accounts as deemed necessary to implement the provisions of the cash management improvement act, and this subsection. Refunds or allocations shall occur prior to the distributions of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) Except for the provisions of RCW 43.84.160, the treasury income account may be utilized for the payment of purchased banking services on behalf of treasury funds including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and disbursement functions for the state treasury and affected state agencies. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

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- (4) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings credited to the treasury income account. The state treasurer shall credit the general fund with all the earnings credited to the treasury income account except:
- The following accounts and funds shall receive their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's and fund's average daily balance for the period: The capitol building construction account, the Cedar River channel construction and operation account, the Central Washington University capital projects the charitable, educational, penal and institutions account, the Columbia river basin water supply development account, the common school construction fund, the county criminal justice assistance account, the county sales and use tax equalization account, the data processing building construction account, the deferred compensation administrative account, the deferred compensation principal account, the department of retirement systems account, the developmental disabilities community trust account, the drinking water assistance account, the drinking water assistance administrative account, the drinking water assistance repayment account, the Eastern Washington University capital projects account, the education construction fund, the education legacy trust account, the election account, the emergency reserve fund, the energy freedom account, The Evergreen State College capital projects account, the federal forest revolving account, the freight mobility investment account, the health services account, the public health services account, the health system capacity account, the personal health services account, the state higher education construction account, the higher education construction account, the highway infrastructure account, the high-occupancy toll lanes operations account, the industrial insurance premium refund account, the judges' retirement

account, the judicial retirement administrative account, the judicial 1 2 retirement principal account, the local leasehold excise tax account, the local real estate excise tax account, the local sales and use tax 3 account, the medical aid account, the mobile home park relocation fund, 4 5 the multimodal transportation account, the municipal criminal justice assistance account, the municipal sales and use tax equalization 6 7 account, the natural resources deposit account, the oyster reserve land account, the perpetual surveillance and maintenance account, the public 8 employees' retirement system plan 1 account, the public employees' 9 10 retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the public facilities construction loan revolving account beginning July 1, 2004, 11 12 the public health supplemental account, the public works assistance 13 account, the Puyallup tribal settlement account, the real estate 14 appraiser commission account, the regional transportation investment district account, the resource management cost account, the rural 15 Washington loan fund, the site closure account, the small city pavement 16 17 sidewalk account, the special wildlife account, the state employees' insurance account, the state employees' insurance reserve 18 19 account, the state investment board expense account, the state investment board commingled trust fund accounts, the supplemental 20 21 pension account, the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge account, the teachers' 22 retirement system plan 1 account, the teachers' retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the tobacco prevention and control 23 24 the tobacco settlement account, the transportation 25 infrastructure account, the transportation partnership account, the tuition recovery trust fund, the University of Washington bond 26 27 retirement fund, the University of Washington building account, the volunteer fire fighters' and reserve officers' relief and pension 28 principal fund, the volunteer fire fighters' and reserve officers' 29 administrative fund, the Washington fruit express account, the 30 Washington judicial retirement system account, the Washington law 31 32 enforcement officers' and fire fighters' system plan 1 retirement account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' 33 system plan 2 retirement account, the Washington public safety 34 employees' plan 2 retirement account, the Washington school employees' 35 retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 account, the Washington state 36 37 health insurance pool account, the Washington state patrol retirement 38 account, the Washington State University building account, the

- Washington State University bond retirement fund, the water pollution 1 2 control revolving fund, and the Western Washington University capital projects account. Earnings derived from investing balances of the 3 agricultural permanent fund, the normal school permanent fund, the 4 permanent common school fund, the scientific permanent fund, and the 5 state university permanent fund shall be allocated to their respective 6 7 beneficiary accounts. All earnings to be distributed under this subsection (4)(a) shall first be reduced by the allocation to the state 8 treasurer's service fund pursuant to RCW 43.08.190. 9
- (b) The following accounts and funds shall receive eighty percent 10 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or 11 fund's average daily balance for the period: The aeronautics account, 12 13 aircraft search and rescue account, the county arterial the preservation account, the department of licensing services account, the 14 essential rail assistance account, the ferry bond retirement fund, the 15 grade crossing protective fund, the high capacity transportation 16 17 account, the highway bond retirement fund, the highway safety account, the motor vehicle fund, the motorcycle safety education account, the 18 pilotage account, the public transportation systems account, the Puget 19 Sound capital construction account, the Puget Sound ferry operations 20 21 account, the recreational vehicle account, the rural arterial trust account, the safety and education account, the special category C 22 account, the state patrol highway account, the transportation 2003 23 24 account (nickel account), the transportation equipment fund, the 25 transportation fund, the transportation improvement account, the transportation improvement board bond retirement account, and the urban 26 27 arterial trust account.
- 28 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state 29 Constitution, no treasury accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings 30 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. Sections 1 through 7 of this act expire June 30, 2016. Any moneys in the energy freedom account on that date and any moneys received pursuant to assistance made under this chapter must be deposited in the general fund.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. Sections 2 through 7, 11, and 15 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.

- 1 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 13.** Sections 8 and 10 of this act take effect
- 2 July 1, 2006.

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- 3 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 14.** Section 9 of this act expires July 1, 2006.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 15. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
- 6 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
- 7 persons or circumstances is not affected."

E3SHB 2939 - S AMD

By Senator Rockefeller

ADOPTED 03/02/2006

On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "program;" strike the remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 42.56.270 and 43.84.092; reenacting and amending RCW 43.84.092; adding a new chapter to Title 15 RCW; creating new sections; providing an effective date; and providing expiration dates."

EFFECT: The underlying bill is stricken and the text of ESSB 6501 is inserted and modified with language from E3SHB 2939. Findings concerning energy independence and public research and development are added. Definitions for "applicant," "peer review committee," and "research and development project" are added. "Coproducts" and "fixed or mobile" facilities are added to the definition of "project." Eligible applicants are limited to political subdivisions, federally recognized tribes, and certain state institutions of higher education. A peer review process is added for research and development projects by higher education institutions. A requirement concerning the "business success" of a project is changed to emphasize "commercial viability" in the "marketplace." Two criteria are removed and replaced with a requirement that assistance may not exceed fifty percent of the total assistance granted for the project. Contracts are required with the partners of successful applicants and shall become part of the application record. The deferral period for payments is extended from 12 to 24 months. The director is also required to submit annual

reports to the governor and legislature. Accountability penalties are added. Legislative findings are not codified. Technical changes are made.

--- END ---