
SENATE BILL 6421

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senator Rockefeller

Read first time 01/14/10. Referred to Committee on Environment, Water & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to Washington state's energy strategy; amending RCW
2 43.21F.010 and 43.21F.090; adding a new section to chapter 43.21F RCW;
3 and repealing RCW 43.21F.015 and 43.21F.055.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.21F.010 and 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 s 1 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that energy drives the entire modern
8 economy from petroleum for vehicles to electricity to light homes and
9 businesses. The legislature further finds that the state's dependence
10 on fossil fuels is both an economic and environmental liability, as the
11 citizens of Washington spend significant resources on the import of
12 fossil fuels that are subject to volatile prices because of finite
13 resources and growing world demand, and fossil fuel combustion is the
14 single biggest human source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington
15 state. The legislature further finds that the nation and the world
16 have started the transition to a clean energy economy, with massive
17 improvements in energy efficiency and investments in new clean and
18 renewable energy resources and technologies.

1 (2) The legislature finds and declares that it is the continuing
2 purpose of state government, consistent with other essential
3 considerations of state policy, to foster wise and efficient energy use
4 and to promote energy self-sufficiency through the use of indigenous
5 and renewable energy sources, consistent with the promotion of reliable
6 energy sources, the general welfare, and the protection of
7 environmental quality.

8 (3) The legislature further declares that the goals of the state's
9 energy strategy are to:

10 (a) Increase competitiveness and economic security by reducing
11 fossil fuel imports;

12 (b) Develop a clean energy economy and jobs through business and
13 workforce development;

14 (c) Meet the state's obligations to reduce greenhouse gas
15 emissions; and

16 (d) Maintain competitive energy prices that have been an
17 instrumental part of our state's economic success to date.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 43.21F RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 To meet the state energy strategy goals as specified in RCW
21 43.21F.010, it is the policy of the state of Washington to:

22 (1) Pursue energy efficiency and conservation as the state's
23 preferred energy resource;

24 (2) Ensure that the state's energy system meets the health,
25 welfare, and economic needs of its citizens with particular emphasis on
26 meeting the needs of low-income and vulnerable populations;

27 (3) Reduce dependence on fossil fuel energy sources through
28 improved efficiency and development of clean energy sources;

29 (4) Improve transportation energy use through increased vehicle and
30 system efficiencies, development of electricity, biofuels, and other
31 clean fuels, and land use policies that provide improved transportation
32 choices;

33 (5) Meet the state's statutory climate change goals and targets and
34 other environmental requirements as the state develops and uses energy
35 resources;

36 (6) Maintain and enhance economic competitiveness by supporting

1 clean energy technology innovation, access to clean energy markets
2 worldwide, and clean energy business and workforce development;

3 (7) Build on the advantage provided by the state's clean regional
4 electrical grid by expanding and integrating additional carbon-free
5 generation and improving the state's transmission capacity;

6 (8) Make state government a model for energy efficiency, use of
7 clean and renewable energy, and greenhouse gas-neutral operations;

8 (9) During energy shortage emergencies, give priority in the
9 allocation of energy resources to maintaining the public health,
10 safety, and welfare of the state's citizens and industry in order to
11 minimize adverse impacts on their physical, social, and economic well-
12 being;

13 (10) Develop and disseminate impartial and objective energy
14 information and analysis, while taking full advantage of the
15 capabilities of the state's institutions of higher education;

16 (11) Actively seek to maximize federal and other nonstate funding
17 and support to the state for energy efficiency, renewable energy,
18 emerging energy technologies, and other activities of benefit to the
19 state's overall energy future; and

20 (12) Establish a state energy strategy that provides primary
21 guidance for implementation of the state's energy policy.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.21F.090 and 1996 c 186 s 106 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (1) The department of commerce shall review the state energy
25 strategy as developed under section 1, chapter 201, Laws of 1991,
26 periodically with the guidance of an advisory committee. For each
27 review, an advisory committee shall be established with a membership
28 resembling as closely as possible the original energy strategy advisory
29 committee specified under section 1, chapter 201, Laws of 1991. Upon
30 completion of a public hearing regarding the advisory committee's
31 advice and recommendations for revisions to the energy strategy, a
32 written report shall be conveyed by the department to the governor and
33 the appropriate legislative committees. Any advisory committee
34 established under this section shall be dissolved within three months
35 after their written report is conveyed.

36 (2) By December 1, 2010, and every five years thereafter, the
37 department of commerce shall produce a fully updated and revised state

1 energy strategy and implementation report. The strategy shall, to the
2 maximum extent feasible, examine the state's entire energy system and
3 provide specific recommendations for both further development of state
4 analytical capabilities and policies as well as implementation
5 recommendations to the governor and legislature. As part of the
6 development of the strategy, the department shall convene a state
7 energy strategy committee, as provided in this section, and shall also
8 engage key public agencies and interested stakeholders. In addition,
9 the department shall review related processes and documents relevant to
10 a state energy strategy including but not limited to the work of the
11 clean energy leadership council, the climate advisory and action teams,
12 the evergreen jobs committee, and the northwest power and conservation
13 council.

14 (3) To assist in updates of the state energy strategy, the
15 department of commerce shall actively seek both in-kind and financial
16 support for this process from the United States department of energy
17 and its national laboratories, other public agencies, private sector
18 entities, foundations, and other energy organizations. The department
19 of commerce shall develop a work plan for update of the strategy that
20 reflects the levels of activities and deliverables commensurate with
21 the level of funding and in-kind support available from state and
22 nonstate sources.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The following acts or parts of acts are each
24 repealed:

25 (1) RCW 43.21F.015 (State policy) and 1994 c 207 s 3 & 1981 c 295
26 s 1; and

27 (2) RCW 43.21F.055 (Intervention in certain regulatory proceedings
28 prohibited--Application to energy facility site evaluation council--
29 Avoidance of duplication of activity) and 1996 c 186 s 104 & 1981 c 295
30 s 5.

--- END ---