

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1257

As Reported by House Committee On:
Environment & Energy

Title: An act relating to energy efficiency.

Brief Description: Concerning energy efficiency.

Sponsors: Representatives Doglio, Tarleton, Lekanoff, Fitzgibbon, Dolan, Fey, Mead, Peterson, Kloba, Riccelli, Macri, Hudgins, Morris, Stanford, Appleton, Slatter, Tharinger, Jinkins, Pollet and Goodman; by request of Governor Inslee.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Environment & Energy: 1/29/19, 2/14/19 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Authorizes a city, town, or county to adopt additional residential energy code requirements as developed by the State Building Code Council (Council).
- Requires the Council to develop rules for electric vehicle infrastructure that require electric vehicle charging capability at all new buildings that provide on-site parking.
- Requires the Department of Commerce (Department) to establish a State Energy Performance Standard for covered commercial buildings by November 1, 2020.
- Requires the Department to establish a State Energy Performance Standard Early Adoption Incentive Program.
- Establishes energy benchmarking requirements for covered commercial buildings.
- Establishes a Natural Gas Conservation Standard.
- Authorizes a gas company to propose a renewable natural gas program.
- Requires each gas company to offer by tariff a voluntary renewable natural gas service available to all customers.
- Establishes a societal cost of greenhouse gas emissions for the purposes of the Natural Gas Conservation Standard.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Fitzgibbon, Chair; Lekanoff, Vice Chair; Doglio, Fey, Mead, Peterson and Shewmake.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 3 members: Representatives Shea, Ranking Minority Member; Dye, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Boehnke.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative DeBolt.

Staff: Nikkole Hughes (786-7156).

Background:

State Energy Code.

The State Energy Code (Code) is part of the State Building Code, which sets the minimum construction requirements for buildings in the state. The Code provides a maximum and minimum level of energy efficiency for residential buildings and the minimum level of energy efficiency for nonresidential buildings. The State Building Code Council (Council) maintains the Code. Unless otherwise amended by rule, the Code must reflect the 2006 edition.

The Code for residential structures preempts the residential energy code of each city, town, and county in Washington, unless the local jurisdiction's residential energy code exceeds the requirements of the Code and was adopted before March 1, 1990.

The Council reviews, updates, and adopts model state building codes every three years. The Code must be designed to:

- construct increasingly energy efficient homes and buildings that help achieve the broader goal of building zero fossil-fuel greenhouse gas (GHG) emission homes and buildings by the year 2031;
- require new buildings to meet a certain level of energy efficiency, but allow flexibility in building design, construction, and heating equipment efficiencies within that framework; and
- allow space heating equipment efficiency to offset or substitute for building envelope thermal performance.

The Council must adopt state energy codes that require buildings constructed from 2013 through 2031 to move incrementally toward a 70 percent reduction in energy use by 2031. The Code must consider regional climatic conditions. The Council may amend the Code by rule if the amendments increase energy efficiency in the affected buildings.

Building Requirements for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.

The Council must adopt rules for electric vehicle infrastructure requirements. Rules adopted by the Council must consider applicable national and international standards.

Energy Benchmarking Requirements.

An electric or gas utility that serves more than 25,000 customers in the state must maintain records of the energy consumption data of all nonresidential and certain public agency buildings to which the utility provides service. This data must be maintained in a format that is compatible with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Portfolio Manager, which is an Internet-based program that allows users to track their energy consumption data and to benchmark the energy use of their buildings against comparable buildings.

Department of Commerce.

The Department of Commerce must develop and implement a strategic plan for enhancing energy efficiency in and reducing GHG emissions from homes, buildings, districts, and neighborhoods. The strategic plan must be used to help direct the Code in achieving the goal of building zero fossil-fuel GHG emission homes and buildings by the year 2031. The strategic plan must identify barriers to achieving net zero energy use in homes and buildings and identify how to overcome these barriers in future Code updates and through complementary policies.

Utilities and Transportation Commission.

The Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) regulates the rates, services, and practices of investor-owned utilities and transportation companies, including electrical companies, natural gas companies, and telecommunications companies. The UTC is required to ensure that rates charged by these companies are "fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient."

Summary of Substitute Bill:

State Energy Code.

The State Energy Code (Code) is no longer the maximum energy code allowed for residential buildings in each city, town, and county. A city, town, or county may adopt additional residential energy code requirements as developed by the State Building Code Council (Council).

By December 1, 2019, the Council must adopt the following optional efficiency appendices and include them in the Code for residential buildings:

- an optional appendix providing energy code provisions that will reduce energy use by an additional 8 to 10 percent compared to the minimum code; and
- an optional appendix providing energy code provisions that will reduce energy use by an additional 16 to 20 percent compared to the minimum code.

The Council must amend the two optional appendices whenever it amends the minimum code requirements in order to achieve the incremental savings required by 2031.

Building Requirements for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.

The Council must develop rules for electric vehicle infrastructure that require electric vehicle charging capability at all new buildings that provide on-site parking.

State Energy Performance Standard.

By November 1, 2020, the Department of Commerce (Department) must establish by rule a State Energy Performance Standard (Standard) for covered commercial buildings. "Covered commercial building" means a building where the sum of nonresidential, hotel, motel, and dormitory floor areas exceeds 50,000 gross square feet, excluding the parking garage area. The Department must provide the owners of covered buildings with notification of compliance requirements no later than July 1, 2021.

In developing the Standard, the Department must seek to maximize reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the building sector. The Standard must include energy use intensity targets by building type and methods of conditional compliance that include an energy management plan, operations and maintenance program, energy efficiency audits, and investments in energy efficiency measures designed to meet the targets. The Department must update the Standard by July 1, 2029, and every five years thereafter. Prior to the adoption or update of the Standard, the Department must identify the sources of information it relied upon, including peer-reviewed science.

A building owner of a covered commercial building must meet the following compliance schedule:

- June 1, 2026, for a building with more than 220,000 gross square feet;
- June 1, 2027, for a building with more than 90,000 gross square feet but less than 220,001 gross square feet; and
- June 1, 2028, for a building with more than 50,000 gross square feet but less than 90,001 gross square feet.

A covered commercial building is exempt from the Standard if it meets at least one of several listed criteria, including:

- the building did not have a certificate of occupancy or temporary certificate of occupancy for all 12 months of the calendar year prior to the building owner compliance schedule;
- the building is an agricultural structure; or
- the primary use of the building is manufacturing or other industrial purposes.

The Department may impose an administrative penalty upon a building owner for failing to submit documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements of the Standard. The penalty may not exceed \$5,000 plus an amount based on the duration of any continuing violation. The additional amount for a continuing violation may not exceed a daily amount equal to \$1 per year per gross square foot of floor area. The Department may by rule adjust the maximum penalty rates for inflation.

By January 15, 2022, and each year thereafter through 2029, the Department must submit a report to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature on the implementation of the Standard.

State Energy Performance Standard Early Adoption Incentive Program.

The Department must establish a State Energy Performance Standard Early Adoption Incentive Program (Incentive Program).

An eligible building owner may submit an application to the Department for an incentive payment in a form and manner prescribed by the Department. The application must be submitted in accordance with the following schedule:

- beginning July 1, 2021, through June 1, 2025, for a building with more than 220,000 gross square feet;
- beginning July 1, 2021, through June 1, 2026, for a building with more than 90,000 gross square feet but less than 220,001 gross square feet; and
- beginning July 1, 2021, through June 1, 2027, for a building with more than 50,000 gross square feet but less than 90,001 gross square feet.

An eligible building owner that demonstrates early compliance with the applicable energy use intensity target under the Standard may receive a base incentive payment of \$0.85 per square foot of floor area, excluding parking, unconditioned, or semi-conditioned spaces.

The Department may not issue a certification for an incentive application to an eligible building owner if doing so is likely to result in total incentive payments in excess of \$75 million.

Each qualifying utility must administer incentive payments for the Incentive Program. Any thermal energy company, electric utility, or gas company not otherwise required to administer incentive payments may voluntarily participate by providing notice to the Department in a form and manner prescribed by the Department.

Upon receiving notification from the Department that a building owner has qualified for an incentive payment, each entity that administers incentive payments must make incentive payments to its customers who are eligible building owners of covered commercial buildings or multifamily residential buildings who qualify for the Incentive Program. When a building is served by more than one entity administering incentive payments, incentive payments must be proportional to the energy use intensity reduction of the participating entities' fuel.

A light and power business or a gas distribution business that participates in the Incentive Program is allowed a credit against its public utility tax (PUT) obligation in an amount equal to:

- incentive payments made in any calendar year in accordance with the Incentive Program; and
- documented administrative costs not to exceed 5 percent of the incentive payments.

The PUT credit expires June 30, 2032.

If a review by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee finds that measurable energy savings has increased in covered commercial buildings for which building owners are receiving an incentive payment from a qualifying utility, then the Legislature intends to extend the expiration date of the PUT credit.

Energy Benchmarking Requirements.

An electric or gas utility that is not a qualifying utility must either offer the upload service to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Portfolio Manager (Portfolio Manager) or provide customers who are building owners of covered commercial

buildings with consumption data in an electronic document formatted for direct upload to the Portfolio Manager. Within 60 days of receiving a written or electronic request and authorization of a building owner, the utility must provide the building owner with monthly energy consumption data as required to benchmark the specified building.

For any covered commercial building with three or more tenants, an electric or gas utility that is not a qualifying utility must, upon request of the building owner, provide the building owner with aggregated monthly energy consumption data without requiring prior consent from tenants.

Electric and gas utilities must ensure that all data provided in compliance with energy benchmarking requirements does not contain personally identifiable information or customer-specific billing information about tenants of a covered commercial building.

Natural Gas Conservation Standard and Renewable Natural Gas Programs.

Each gas company must identify and acquire all conservation measures that are available and cost-effective. Each company must establish an acquisition target every two years and must demonstrate that the target will result in the acquisition of all resources identified as available and cost-effective. The cost-effectiveness analysis must include the societal costs of GHG emissions. The targets must be based on a conservation potential assessment prepared by an independent third party and approved by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). Conservation targets must be approved by order of the UTC. The initial conservation target must take effect by 2022.

A gas company may propose a renewable natural gas program under which the company would supply renewable natural gas for a portion of the natural gas sold or delivered to its retail customers. The customer charge for a renewable natural gas program may not exceed 5 percent of the amount charged to retail customers for natural gas.

Each gas company must offer by tariff a voluntary renewable natural gas service available to all customers to replace any portion of the natural gas that would otherwise be provided by the gas company.

"Renewable natural gas" means a gas consisting largely of methane and other hydrocarbons derived from the decomposition of organic material in landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, and anaerobic digesters.

Societal Costs of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

For the Natural Gas Conservation Standard, the cost of GHG emissions resulting from the use of natural gas, including the effect of emissions occurring in the gathering, transmission, and distribution of natural gas to the end user, is equal to the cost per metric ton of carbon dioxide emissions, using the 2.5 percent discount rate, listed in Table 2, Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis under Executive Order 12866, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases of the United States Government, August 2016. The UTC must adjust the cost to reflect the effect of inflation.

The UTC must monitor the GHG emissions resulting from natural gas and renewable natural gas delivered by each gas company to its customers, relative to the proportionate share of the state's GHG emissions reduction goal. The UTC must report to the Governor by January 1, 2020, and every three years thereafter, an assessment of whether the gas companies are on track to meet a proportionate share of the state's GHG emission reduction goal.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The substitute bill:

- changes the date by which the Department of Commerce (Department) must establish a State Energy Performance Standard (Standard) for covered commercial buildings from July 1, 2020, to November 1, 2020;
- requires energy use intensity targets to be developed for two or more climate zones and be representative of energy use in a normal weather year;
- requires the Department to provide an annual report to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature on the implementation of the Standard for covered commercial buildings beginning January 15, 2022, through 2029;
- removes the requirement for the Department to establish professional qualifications for persons completing building energy reporting required for the State Energy Performance Standard Early Adoption Incentive Program (Incentive Program);
- changes the date on which eligible building owners may begin applying to the Department for an incentive payment under the Incentive Program from January 1, 2021, to July 1, 2021;
- increases the base incentive rate to from \$0.50 per square foot of floor area to \$0.85 per gross square foot of floor area, excluding parking, unconditioned, or semi-conditioned spaces, and removes the additional incentive for continued compliance;
- specifies that a qualifying utility is not required to administer incentive payments for which the utility is not allowed a credit against its public utility taxes (PUTs) under the Incentive Program;
- removes the provision allowing energy efficiency savings achieved through the Incentive Program that are unique from any other savings claims to be used by a utility to meet regulatory requirements to acquire conservation and energy savings;
- adds a review by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee of the PUT credit provided under the Incentive Program;
- authorizes a natural gas company to propose a renewable natural gas program, instead of requiring a natural gas company to meet a Natural Gas Renewable Energy Standard;
- requires each gas company to offer by tariff a voluntary renewable natural gas service available to all customers to replace any portion of the natural gas that would otherwise be provided by the gas company;
- removes the section requiring a gas company to provide an analysis of the cost of serving the expected energy requirements of customers by using natural gas, compared to the cost of serving the expected energy requirements of customers by using electricity, in any application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity;
- amends the requirements for providing electric vehicle charging capability at all new buildings under the State Building Code; and

- amends the societal cost of greenhouse gas emissions provision such that it only applies to a natural gas company's conservation requirements.
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Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary fiscal note available.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Energy efficiency brings a host of co-benefits, including health benefits. Energy efficiency is the cheapest way to achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. This bill will help the state achieve its statutory GHG emissions reduction targets. Buildings are responsible for much of the energy consumption in the state and account for about 20 percent of the state's emissions. This bill looks holistically at building energy efficiency. The State Energy Performance Standard Early Adoption Incentive Program (Incentive Program) is the cornerstone of the program and would help building owners attain compliance with the new buildings standard. The cheapest energy is the energy you do not use. Improving buildings efficiency will allow for the accommodation of new electric load brought on by transportation electrification. Buildings are assets that are around for a very long time, so it is essential for new buildings to be constructed as efficiently as possible and for old buildings to become more efficient. The Legislature has not enacted building efficiency legislation since 2009. This bill addresses large existing commercial buildings and how building owners can reduce their energy use. This policy takes a considered view and provides flexibility and support to building owners. The benchmarking provisions in this bill should be expanded to include residential buildings. The utilities have all of this data. This kind of data drives market value.

(Opposed) Natural gas companies are already investing in conservation. Allowing local governments to adopt more efficient codes will make homes more expensive. The building industry is already making tremendous progress toward achieving the 2031 goal for the state energy code. If local jurisdictions adopted different codes, builders would have to purchase different building materials for each one.

(Other) Building emissions are going up and this bill is a great step in trying to address that. However, that is not due to increased natural gas emissions. Natural gas helps reduce GHG emissions in the state. Building incentives need to match utility credit. Investor-owned gas companies are already doing natural gas conservation. Renewable natural gas accessibility and market maturity is an issue. This bill should address natural gas transport customers. The new standard established in this bill will require extensive deliberations. The bill should require an extensive pre-rules stakeholder process and a report back to the Legislature. This bill represents a departure from typical building code policies, which are prospective. The right balance needs to be found in developing these new policies.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Doglio, prime sponsor; Chris Davis, Office of the Governor; Amy Wheelless, Northwest Energy Coalition; Kirsten Smith, American Institute of Architects; Kerry Meade, Northwest Energy Efficiency Council; Bruce Bassett, City of Mercer Island; Nancy Tosta, City of Burien; Matt Larson, City of Snoqualmie; Megan Smith, King County; Greg Rock, Carbon Washington; David Perk, 350 Seattle; Leah Missik, Climate Solutions; Rebecca Ponzio, Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters; Stephanie Celt, BlueGreen Alliance; Dave Warren, Klickitat County Public Utility District; John Leigh, Virginia Mason Medical Center; Chris Van Daalen, Northwest EcoBuilding Guild; Poppy Storm, 2050 Institute; and Nathaniel Jones, City of Olympia.

(Opposed) Van Collins, American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington; Charlie Brown, Cascade Natural Gas; and Bill Stauffacher, Building Industry Association of Washington.

(Other) Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association; Laura Wilkeson and Brandon Housekeeper, Puget Sound Energy; Nina Kapoor, Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas; John Rothlin, Avista; Greg Hanon, NAIOP Research Foundation; Jerry VanderWood, Associated General Contractors; and Carl Schroeder, Association of Washington Cities.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.