
SENATE BILL 6192

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Poulsen, Rockefeller, Rasmussen and Fraser

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing the viability of a solar electric
2 generating facility; creating a new section; making an appropriation;
3 and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The northwest solar center, a program of
6 Washington State University's energy extension service, shall conduct
7 a feasibility assessment of the economic and technical viability of
8 building a large-scale, public-demonstration, solar electric generating
9 facility.

10 (2) The assessment should include the facility's economic
11 viability, costs and benefits to Washington state, including job
12 creation and environmental impacts, and its impact on the regional
13 energy. The center's assessment should also include an analysis of the
14 impact of this energy choice as compared to other energy generation
15 options.

16 (3) In conducting this assessment, the center shall make the
17 following assumptions about the facility:

18 (a) It will have a minimum capacity in the range of three hundred
19 megawatts;

1 (b) It will be constructed through a design-build contract that
2 requires the recipient to locate a solar thin film manufacturing
3 facility in Washington state;

4 (c) It will be developed by a public joint operating agency;

5 (d) It will be sited in a county with an existing large solar
6 installation;

7 (e) It will provide maximum production and deliver the power during
8 irrigation and air conditioning peaks;

9 (f) The construction of it will drive the market and result in
10 significant cost reductions;

11 (g) The state will offer incentives to reduce the costs of bonding
12 the project, such as state loan guarantees; and

13 (h) It will be expected to recover the cost of investment over the
14 life of the project.

15 (4) In conducting this assessment, the center must assemble and
16 work with a team of representatives from the department of community,
17 trade, and economic development, the Washington state public utility
18 district association, the Bonneville power administration, the
19 northwest power and conservation council, the solar industry, local
20 manufacturers, national laboratories, the United States department of
21 energy's thin films program, and other stakeholders as determined
22 essential by the center.

23 (5) The assessment must be completed and a report summarizing the
24 findings prepared and delivered to the energy and fiscal committees of
25 the legislature by December 15, 2006.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of one hundred sixty thousand
27 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
28 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to
29 Washington State University for the purposes of this act.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
31 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
32 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
33 immediately.

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