
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6580

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Marr, Weinstein, Pridemore, Kauffman, Keiser, McAuliffe, Hobbs, Regala, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Fairley, Oemig, Rockefeller, Prentice, and McDermott)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to mitigating the impacts of climate change through
2 the growth management act; adding a new section to chapter 36.70A RCW;
3 creating new sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the
6 profound implications of a changed climate will affect the peoples,
7 institutions, and economies of Washington. While no single local
8 government can substantially influence greenhouse gas emissions or
9 climate change trends, the legislature recognizes that the state,
10 including its local governments and residents, must do its part to
11 reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

12 (2) The legislature further recognizes that: (a) Patterns of land
13 use development significantly influence transportation-related
14 greenhouse gas emissions; (b) fossil fuel-based transportation is the
15 largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington; and (c) the
16 state and its residents will not achieve emission reductions
17 established in RCW 80.80.020 without a significant decrease in
18 transportation emissions. To this end, the legislature finds that
19 local land use and state and local transportation plans should be

1 developed to: Minimize greenhouse gas emissions associated with new
2 development and transportation improvements; and reduce overall
3 greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with RCW 80.80.020.

4 (3) The legislature finds that comprehensive land use plans of
5 local governments can be a significant tool for meaningfully addressing
6 these difficult issues. The legislature recognizes that locally
7 adopted plans should: (a) Minimize land use patterns that increase
8 vehicle usage; (b) encourage compact communities, in-filling, denser
9 development, linkages with transit options, and other practices that
10 reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled; and (c) encourage green
11 jobs and the provision of affordable housing in areas near employment
12 and service centers.

13 (4) The legislature also finds that the effects of global warming
14 are becoming evident in Washington, adversely affecting its residents,
15 economy, and environment. It is critical that Washington and its
16 counties and cities plan to adapt to these adverse effects and take
17 steps to prevent problematic circumstances from becoming worse.

18 (5) The legislature further finds that addressing land use-related
19 climate issues will simultaneously advance many other land use planning
20 goals and provide public dividends, including: (a) Realizing
21 reductions in the costs of providing public facilities and services
22 through more compact development; (b) increasing housing affordability
23 through lower public costs and more compact patterns of growth; (c)
24 lessening transportation costs through reductions in the number of
25 vehicle miles traveled; and (d) accomplishing goals for the protection
26 of the environmental resources of rural areas and resource lands by
27 reducing sprawl. The legislature also recognizes that alternative
28 fuels, and vehicles that use alternative fuels or have increased
29 efficiencies, will contribute to lessening greenhouse gas emissions and
30 will encourage investment in these fuels, energy sources, and
31 technologies.

32 (6) Without prompt, effective, and comprehensive responses to the
33 environmental and governance challenges of climate change, meaningful
34 solutions to these borderless issues will continue to elude the state
35 and its residents. The legislature recognizes that many Washington
36 counties and cities have begun to independently address climate change.
37 The legislature further finds that to achieve the state's emission

1 reduction goals, a collaborative effort is needed. This act is the
2 first step toward providing local governments with the tools that are
3 necessary to accomplish the state's emission reduction goals.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department must develop and provide advisory climate change
7 response methodologies, computer modeling programs, and estimates to
8 counties and cities that include a range of methodologies and
9 estimates. The advisory methodologies, computer modeling programs, and
10 estimates must reflect regional and local variations and the diversity
11 of counties and cities planning under this chapter, and, at a minimum,
12 also must:

13 (a) Identify the greenhouse gas emission reductions that various
14 land use and building measures are estimated to produce. The
15 methodologies developed under this subsection (1)(a) may be expressed
16 as a methodology or a quantification of probable reductions. The
17 methodologies must be capable of considering documented benefits of
18 accommodating growth within urban centers that provide for compact
19 development, appropriate mixes of uses, transit, nonmotorized travel
20 choices, and a balance of employment and housing;

21 (b) Consider potential policies, regulatory programs, and other
22 measures counties and cities can implement to adapt to the likely
23 adverse effects of global warming. Policies, programs, and measures
24 considered under this subsection (1)(b) must be consistent with the
25 department of ecology's preparation and adaption work group;

26 (c) Identify potential measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
27 by lessening vehicle travel; and

28 (d) Estimate the number of vehicle miles traveled.

29 (2) The department must complete and make available the advisory
30 climate change response methodologies and estimates required by this
31 section by December 1, 2009. These advisory climate change response
32 methodologies and estimates must also be updated two years before each
33 completion date established in RCW 36.70A.130(4)(a).

34 (3) In preparing the methodologies and estimates, the department
35 must periodically consult with the advisory team required by section
36 4(3) of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A local government global warming
2 mitigation and adaptation program is established. The program must be
3 administered by the department of community, trade, and economic
4 development. The department must, through a competitive process,
5 select at least three counties and six cities for the program. At
6 least one county and one city selected for the program must have
7 potential to be adversely impacted by global warming through sea-level
8 increases, storms, flooding, or other adverse effects. At least one
9 county and one city must be located east of the crest of the Cascade
10 mountains. At least one county and one city must be located west of
11 the crest of the Cascade mountains and outside the central Puget Sound
12 region. Counties selected must reflect a range of opportunities to
13 address climate change in urbanizing, resource, or agricultural areas.
14 Cities selected must reflect a range of sizes, geographic locations,
15 and variations between those that are highly urbanized and those that
16 are less so and include more residential dwellings than employment
17 positions.

18 (2) The program is established to assist counties and cities that
19 are addressing climate change through their land use and transportation
20 planning, and those that aspire to do so but lack necessary resources.
21 The department may fund proposals to inventory global warming
22 emissions, mitigate global warming emissions, or adapt to the adverse
23 impacts of global warming using criteria established by the department
24 to accomplish the objectives of this act.

25 (3) The department must provide grants and technical assistance to
26 aid the selected counties and cities in their efforts to anticipate,
27 mitigate, and adapt to global warming and its associated problems.

28 (4) The program must conclude by June 30, 2010.

29 (5) If specific funding for the purposes of this section,
30 referencing this act by bill or chapter number and section number is
31 not provided by June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
32 section is null and void.

33 (6) This section expires January 1, 2011, with a report by the
34 department to the governor and the appropriate committees of the house
35 of representatives and the senate on program findings and
36 recommendations.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) With the use of funds provided by
2 specific appropriation, by December 1, 2008, the department of
3 community, trade, and economic development must provide to the governor
4 and appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the
5 senate, a report that includes: (a) A description of what actions
6 counties and cities are taking to address climate change issues; (b) a
7 recommendation of what changes, if any, to chapter 36.70A RCW and other
8 relevant statutes that would enable state and local governments to
9 address climate change issues through land use and transportation
10 planning processes; (c) an assessment of state and local resources,
11 financial and otherwise, needed to fully implement the recommendations
12 of (b) of this subsection; and (d) recommendations for funding to
13 implement the recommendations of (b) of this subsection that is
14 consistent with the assessment required in (c) of this subsection.

15 (2) The report must address, as appropriate and with information
16 that is readily available: (a) What counties and cities have
17 voluntarily done to identify the greenhouse gas emissions of their
18 communities, including those created by counties and cities through
19 governmental activities; (b) the range of strategies chosen by
20 jurisdictions to reduce emissions from their own activities and those
21 of the entire community; (c) a description of obstacles and
22 opportunities to achieve emission reductions in a variety of urban and
23 rural areas; and (d) recommendations for statutory amendments, if any,
24 that are necessary to facilitate emission reductions at the county and
25 city levels.

26 (3) In preparing the report, the department shall convene and
27 consult with an advisory team comprised of the following interests, at
28 a minimum: (a) Two members of each major and minor caucus of the house
29 of representatives and the senate; (b) one representative from the
30 office of the governor; (c) one representative from the department of
31 ecology; (d) one representative from the department of community,
32 trade, and economic development; (e) one representative from a city and
33 county from each of the jurisdictional areas of a growth management
34 hearings board; (f) one representative of an association representing
35 real estate interests; (g) one representative from an association
36 representing local government planners; (h) one representative from a
37 nonprofit entity with experience in growth management and land use
38 planning issues; (i) one representative from a statewide business

1 association; and (j) one representative from a nonprofit entity with
2 experience in climate change issues. With the exceptions of (a) of
3 this subsection, which shall be appointed by the president of the
4 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, (b) of this
5 subsection, which shall be nominated by the governor, and (c) of this
6 subsection, which shall be nominated by the department of ecology,
7 nominations from appropriate organizations shall be submitted to the
8 climate advisory team by July 1, 2008.

9 (4) This section expires December 31, 2008.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is not intended to amend or affect
11 chapter 353, Laws of 2007.

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