

E2SSB 5138 - H AMD 608

By Representative Upthegrove

NOT CONSIDERED 04/26/2009

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that climate
4 change poses a significant threat to Washington's economy, the health
5 and welfare of its population, and its natural resources. Washington's
6 water supply and natural resources are particularly vulnerable to
7 temperature changes and shifts in precipitation patterns and could
8 suffer devastating consequences if adaptive measures are not taken.
9 Even with effective mitigation of climate changing activities, the
10 region will experience inevitable impacts from climate change.

11 (2) The science and information on the effects and impacts of
12 climate change is continually improving and this scientific information
13 provides the basis for planning and developing preparation and
14 adaptation actions for climate change to ensure the economic, health,
15 safety, and environmental well-being of the state and its citizens. It
16 is in the public interest for the state to address the effects of
17 climate change and to be able to plan for future climate change
18 impacts. These impacts will affect individuals, public and private
19 businesses, state and local agencies, as well as natural resources and
20 the environment.

21 (3) It is the purpose of this chapter to create an integrated
22 climate change response strategy with prioritized and coordinated
23 climate change preparation and adaptation actions that state and local
24 agencies, public and private businesses, tribes, and individuals can
25 use to plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change through a
26 collaborative process of on-going research, analysis, collection, and
27 distribution of data and information. To the extent feasible, the
28 integrated climate change response strategy must be developed in
29 collaboration with local governments with climate change preparation

1 and adaptation plans to take advantage of existing climate change
2 preparation and adaptation information and data.

3 (4) The legislature recognizes that the effort required to assess,
4 gather, and compile information and data to develop adaptation and
5 preparation activities for an integrated climate change response
6 strategy will take significant resources and time. The legislature
7 also recognizes that the departments of ecology, agriculture,
8 community, trade, and economic development, fish and wildlife, natural
9 resources, and transportation are uniquely positioned to address many
10 of these issues given the mission of their respective agencies. In
11 addition, the legislature recognizes that some local government
12 agencies are developing local climate change preparation and adaptation
13 plans. Therefore, in an effort to reduce costs and streamline the
14 process while achieving the goals of this chapter, the legislature
15 designates the departments of ecology, agriculture, community, trade,
16 and economic development, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and
17 transportation as leaders in assessing and gathering the necessary
18 information and data to develop a comprehensive, integrated, and
19 coordinated climate change adaptation strategy.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The departments of ecology, agriculture,
21 community, trade, and economic development, fish and wildlife, natural
22 resources, and transportation shall develop an integrated climate
23 change response strategy to better enable state and local agencies,
24 public and private businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and
25 individuals to prepare for, address, and adapt to the impacts of
26 climate change. The integrated climate change response strategy should
27 be developed, where feasible and consistent with the direction of the
28 strategy, in collaboration with local government agencies with climate
29 change preparation and adaptation plans.

30 (2) The department of ecology shall serve as a central
31 clearinghouse for relevant scientific and technical information about
32 the impacts of climate change on Washington's ecology, economy, and
33 society, as well as serve as a central convener for the development of
34 vital programs and necessary policies to help the state adapt to a
35 rapidly changing climate.

36 (3) The department of ecology shall consult and collaborate with
37 the departments of fish and wildlife, agriculture, community, trade,

1 and economic development, natural resources, and transportation in
2 developing an integrated climate change response strategy and plans of
3 actions to prepare for and adapt to climate change impacts.

4 (4) The department of fish and wildlife shall focus on issues
5 relating to biodiversity, resiliency, and vulnerability of the natural
6 environment, and other areas as requested by the department of ecology.

7 (5) The department of natural resources shall focus on the
8 vulnerability and resiliency of forests, forest fires, and forest
9 health.

10 (6) The department of transportation shall focus on gathering and
11 assessing information relating to infrastructure projects,
12 vulnerability of the built environment, and other concerns, as
13 requested by the department of ecology. However, the department of
14 transportation's obligations under this section are subject to the
15 availability of amounts appropriated for the specific purpose
16 identified in this section.

17 (7) The department of agriculture shall focus on the impacts of
18 climate change on agricultural lands, crops, potential offset
19 opportunities, and the economics of farm production, including impacts
20 of new climate change focused regulations.

21 (8) The department of community, trade, and economic development
22 shall focus on issues relating to business activities, energy
23 resources, trade and tourism, affordable housing, community facilities
24 and public infrastructure, and support services for vulnerable
25 populations.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The governor shall designate an existing
27 full-time equivalent position as the single point of accountability for
28 all energy and climate change initiatives within state agencies. All
29 agencies, councils, or work groups with energy or climate change
30 initiatives must coordinate with this designee. This position must be
31 funded from current full-time equivalent allocations without increasing
32 budgets.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The departments of ecology, agriculture,
34 community, trade, and economic development, fish and wildlife, natural
35 resources, and transportation may seek assistance from a science
36 advisory group.

1 (2) The departments of ecology, agriculture, community, trade, and
2 economic development, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and
3 transportation may consult with other state, federal, and local
4 agencies that have expertise in matters relating to climate change, or
5 information and data regarding impacts from climate change, as
6 necessary to develop an integrated climate change response strategy.

7 (3) The departments of ecology, agriculture, community, trade, and
8 economic development, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and
9 transportation shall, to the extent possible, use teleconferencing for
10 meetings and electronic messaging for gathering data and information to
11 reduce meeting and travel expenditures.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The integrated climate change response
13 strategy shall include recommendations conveyed and communicated so
14 that policymakers, public and private businesses, and individuals can
15 easily understand and recognize the implications of the climate change
16 response strategy. The integrated climate change response strategy
17 should address the impact of and adaptation to climate change, as well
18 as the regional capacity to undertake actions, existing ecosystem and
19 resource management concerns, and health and economic risks. In
20 addition, the departments of ecology, agriculture, community, trade,
21 and economic development, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and
22 transportation should include a range of scenarios for the purposes of
23 planning in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent
24 feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to the impacts
25 of climate change.

26 (2) The integrated climate change response strategy must include
27 climate change preparation and adaptation actions that ensure
28 collaborative and cooperative activities.

29 (a) By December 1, 2011, the department of ecology shall compile an
30 initial climate change response strategy, including information and
31 data from the departments of fish and wildlife, agriculture, community,
32 trade, and economic development, natural resources, and transportation
33 that: Summarizes the best known science on climate change impacts to
34 Washington; assesses Washington's vulnerability to the identified
35 climate change impacts; prioritizes solutions that can be implemented
36 within and across state agencies; and identifies recommended funding

1 mechanisms and technical and other essential resources for implementing
2 solutions.

3 (b) The initial strategy must include:

4 (i) Efforts to identify priority planning areas for action, based
5 on vulnerability and risk assessments;

6 (ii) Barriers challenging state and local governments to take
7 action, such as laws, policies, regulations, rules, and procedures that
8 require revision to adequately address adaptation to climate change;

9 (iii) Opportunities to integrate climate science and projected
10 impacts into planning and decision making; and

11 (iv) Methods to increase public awareness of climate change, its
12 projected impacts on the community, and to build support for meaningful
13 adaptation policies and strategies.

14 (c) The department of ecology shall, in collaboration with the
15 departments of fish and wildlife, agriculture, community, trade, and
16 economic development, natural resources, and transportation, complete
17 an initial climate impacts assessment report that includes the status
18 of the integrated climate change response strategy and provide it to
19 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2012.

20 (3) By December 1, 2013, the department of ecology, in
21 collaboration with the departments of fish and wildlife, agriculture,
22 community, trade, and economic development, and natural resources, must
23 complete an integrated climate change response strategy, which must
24 include:

25 (a) Adaptation plans of action to address:

26 (i) Water resources;

27 (ii) Ocean and coastal resources;

28 (iii) Infrastructure requirements;

29 (iv) Biodiversity;

30 (v) Public health risks and consequences; and

31 (vi) Working landscapes, such as forest and agricultural lands.

32 (b) Information about the latest research and projects, such as:

33 (i) Risk assessment models and data, including evaluations of the
34 consequences, magnitude, and probability of climate change impacts;

35 (ii) Comprehensive impact assessments that examine how climate
36 change is likely to affect the natural environment and physical
37 infrastructure, as well as the economic impacts on municipal and rural
38 operations; and

1 (iii) Methods to strengthen community partnerships that reduce
2 vulnerabilities and risks to climate change.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The science advisory group shall provide
4 independent, nonrepresentational scientific advice to the department of
5 ecology. The science advisory group members shall assist the
6 department of ecology in: (a) Identifying the timing and extent of
7 impacts from climate change; (b) assessing the effects of climate
8 variability and change in the context of multiple interacting stressors
9 or impacts; (c) developing forecasting models; (d) determining the
10 resilience of the environment, natural systems, communities, and
11 organizations to deal with potential or actual impacts of climate
12 change and the vulnerability to which a natural or social system is
13 susceptible to sustaining damage from climate change impacts; and (e)
14 identifying other issues, as determined by the department of ecology,
15 necessary to develop policies and actions for the integrated climate
16 change response strategy.

17 (2) The chair of the science advisory group must be a scientist
18 with recognized expertise in a field or fields of science essential to
19 preparing for and adapting to climate change. The chair serves for a
20 term of three years. The chair shall: (a) Select experts from
21 scientific disciplines as needed to assist the department of ecology
22 with developing an integrated climate change response strategy; and (b)
23 coordinate the science advisory group activities to ensure the
24 priorities and goals of the department of ecology are met.

25 (3) The governor or the governor's designee shall appoint the chair
26 of the science advisory group or appoint a successor to assume the
27 duties of the chair after the initial term.

28 (4) In establishing the science advisory group, the department of
29 ecology shall request that the Washington academy of sciences provide
30 a list of candidates to the chair of the science advisory group. The
31 list of candidates should reflect the full range of scientific
32 disciplines involved in climate change, including scientists associated
33 with federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, business, and
34 environmental communities, colleges, and university communities. The
35 chair of the science advisory group may also seek advice from the
36 scientific community to develop membership for the science advisory
37 group.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** State agencies shall strive to incorporate
2 adaptation plans of action as priority activities when planning or
3 designing agency policies and programs. Agencies shall consider: The
4 integrated climate change response strategy when designing, planning,
5 and funding infrastructure projects; and incorporating natural resource
6 adaptation actions and alternative energy sources when designing and
7 planning infrastructure projects.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute
9 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
11 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
12 June 30, 2009, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
13 void."

14 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Differs from striker that passed out of Ways & Means:
Requires the development of the climate change response strategy, to
the extent feasible and where consistent with the direction of the
state plan, in collaboration with local governments with preparation
and adaptation plans to take advantage of existing data and
information. Removes all other references to local government
agencies. Revises the Department of Agriculture's responsibilities to
focus on the impacts of climate change on agricultural lands, including
the impacts of new climate.

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