

**E2SSB 5138** - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

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, as well as local government  
17 agencies actively engaged with climate adaptation, to address the  
18 effects of climate change and to be able to plan for future climate  
19 change impacts. These impacts will affect individuals, public and  
20 private businesses, state and local agencies, as well as natural  
21 resources and the environment.

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

1 adaptation initiatives being undertaken by local government agencies  
2 actively engaged with climate adaptation.

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.  
11 Therefore, in an effort to reduce costs and streamline the process  
12 while achieving the goals of this chapter, the legislature designates  
13 the departments of ecology, agriculture, community, trade, and economic  
14 development, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and transportation  
15 as leaders in assessing and gathering the necessary information and  
16 data to develop, in collaboration with local government agencies  
17 actively engaged with climate adaptation, a comprehensive, integrated,  
18 and coordinated climate change adaptation strategy.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The governor shall designate a person as  
20 the single point of accountability for all energy and climate change  
21 initiatives within state agencies. This position must be funded from  
22 current full-time equivalent allocations without increasing budgets or  
23 staffing levels. If duties must be shifted within an agency, they must  
24 be shifted among current full-time equivalent allocations. All  
25 agencies, councils, or work groups with energy or climate change  
26 initiatives shall coordinate with this designee.

27 (2) The departments of ecology, agriculture, community, trade, and  
28 economic development, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and  
29 transportation, in collaboration with local government agencies  
30 actively engaged with climate adaptation, shall develop an integrated  
31 climate change response strategy to better enable state and local  
32 agencies, public and private businesses, nongovernmental organizations,  
33 and individuals to prepare for, address, and adapt to the impacts of  
34 climate change.

35 (3) The department of ecology shall serve as a central  
36 clearinghouse for relevant scientific and technical information about  
37 the impacts of climate change on Washington state's ecology, economy,

1 and society, as well as serve as a central convener for the development  
2 of vital programs and necessary policies to help the state adapt to a  
3 rapidly changing climate.

4 (4) The department of ecology shall consult and collaborate with  
5 the departments of fish and wildlife, agriculture, community, trade,  
6 and economic development, natural resources, and transportation, in  
7 collaboration with local government agencies actively engaged with  
8 climate adaptation, in developing an integrated climate change response  
9 strategy and plans of actions to prepare for and adapt to climate  
10 change impacts.

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

14 (6) The department of natural resources shall focus on the  
15 vulnerability and resiliency of forests, forest fires, and forest  
16 health.

17 (7) The department of transportation shall focus on gathering and  
18 assessing information relating to infrastructure projects,  
19 vulnerability of the built environment, and other concerns, as  
20 requested by the department of ecology.

21 (8) The department of agriculture shall focus on the impacts of new  
22 regulations on agricultural lands, crops, potential offset  
23 opportunities, and the economics of farm production.

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

29 However, the department of transportation's obligations under this  
30 section are subject to availability of amounts appropriated for the  
31 specific purpose identified in this section.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The departments of ecology, agriculture,  
33 community, trade, and economic development, fish and wildlife, natural  
34 resources, and transportation may seek assistance from a science  
35 advisory group.

36 (2) The departments of ecology, agriculture, community, trade, and  
37 economic development, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and

1 transportation may consult with other state, federal, and local  
2 agencies that have expertise in matters relating to climate change, or  
3 information and data regarding impacts from climate change, as  
4 necessary to develop an integrated climate change response strategy.

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

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The integrated climate change response  
11 strategy shall include recommendations conveyed and communicated so  
12 that policymakers, public and private businesses, and individuals can  
13 easily understand and recognize the implications of the climate change  
14 response strategy. The integrated climate change response strategy  
15 should address the impact of and adaptation to climate change, as well  
16 as the regional capacity to undertake actions, existing ecosystem and  
17 resource management concerns, and health and economic risks. In  
18 addition, the departments of ecology, agriculture, community, trade,  
19 and economic development, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and  
20 transportation should include a range of scenarios for the purposes of  
21 planning in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent  
22 feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to the impacts  
23 of climate change.

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

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

1 (b) The initial strategy must include:

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

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

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

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

12 (c) The department of ecology shall, in collaboration with the  
13 departments of fish and wildlife, agriculture, community, trade, and  
14 economic development, natural resources, and transportation, and in  
15 collaboration with local government agencies actively engaged with  
16 climate adaptation, complete an initial climate impacts assessment  
17 report that includes the status of the integrated climate change  
18 response strategy and provide it to the appropriate committees of the  
19 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, natural resources, and  
23 transportation, and in collaboration with local government agencies  
24 actively engaged with climate adaptation, must complete an integrated  
25 climate change response strategy, which must include:

26 (a) Adaptation plans of action to address:

27 (i) Water resources;

28 (ii) Ocean and coastal resources;

29 (iii) Infrastructure requirements;

30 (iv) Biodiversity;

31 (v) Public health risks and consequences; and

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

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

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

36 (ii) Comprehensive impact assessments that examine how climate  
37 change is likely to affect the natural environment and physical

1 infrastructure, as well as the economic impacts on municipal and rural  
2 operations; and

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

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

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

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

30 (4) In establishing the science advisory group, the department of  
31 ecology shall request that the Washington academy of sciences provide  
32 a list of candidates to the chair of the science advisory group. The  
33 list of candidates should reflect the full range of scientific  
34 disciplines involved in climate change, including scientists associated  
35 with federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, business, agriculture,  
36 forestry, flood control, and environmental communities, colleges, and

1 university communities. The chair of the science advisory group may  
2 also seek advice from the scientific community to develop membership  
3 for the science advisory group.

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

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute  
12 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
14 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
15 June 30, 2009, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
16 void."

17 Correct the title.

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