
SENATE BILL 5709

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Smith, Ericksen, Sheldon, Holmquist Newbry, Dammeier, Brown, and Roach

Read first time 02/11/13. Referred to Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to a pilot program to demonstrate the feasibility
2 of using densified biomass to heat public schools; and creating new
3 sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following
6 findings:

7 (1) That manufactured and direct thermal conversion of densified
8 biomass is a renewable energy activity;

9 (2) That much of western Europe, China, Japan, and other Asian
10 countries have chosen to use renewable densified biomass as a renewable
11 energy fuel to heat homes, businesses, and other facilities;

12 (3) That clean burning, renewable densified biomass will: (a) Lead
13 our country to energy independence; (b) create jobs; (c) stimulate our
14 economy by keeping more of our money circulating in the United States;
15 (d) reduce carbon emissions; (e) improve air quality in noncompliant
16 air sheds; (f) promote healthy forests; and (g) reduce the volume of
17 waste in landfills; that the densified biomass industry will be
18 complimentary to other biofuel industries, providing an outlet and use

1 for the resultant high lignin by-products and agriculture residuals;
2 and

3 (4) That a December 2012 report by the Washington State University
4 energy program identified opportunities to develop and expand the in-
5 state manufacturing of densified biomass.

6 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to have the
7 Washington State University energy program conduct a pilot program to
8 demonstrate the feasibility of using densified biomass as a renewable
9 energy source to heat schools and other buildings.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By December 1, 2013, the Washington
11 State University energy program must develop and initiate a pilot
12 program to demonstrate the feasibility of using densified biomass to
13 heat public schools. One public school must be chosen for the pilot
14 program, using the following criteria: The school's proximity to a
15 currently operating densified biomass manufacturing facility, the age
16 and condition of the school's current heating system, and the school's
17 design is of a nature that most resembles other schools of its class.
18 The pilot program must consist of the following: The replacement of
19 the school's current heating system with one that uses densified
20 biomass as a fuel; the measurement and evaluation of the heating
21 system, including a cost comparison with other conventional fuels; and
22 the measurement of emissions from the heating system.

23 (2) By December 31, 2015, the Washington State University energy
24 program must summarize and report its findings to the legislature. The
25 report must include an analysis extrapolating the results to other
26 similarly situated schools in the state.

27 (3) In designing the pilot program, the Washington State University
28 energy program must seek to leverage other existing private and federal
29 funding programs and resources.

30 (4) The Washington State University energy program may contract
31 with other entities for assistance in implementing the pilot program.

32 (5) The pilot program expires December 15, 2015.

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