

ESSB 5693 - H AMD TO H AMD (H-2871.1/22) **1157**

By Representative Dent

NOT ADOPTED 02/26/2022

1 On page 155, line 22, increase the Insurance Commissioner's
2 Regulatory Account-State Appropriation by \$100,000

3

4 On page 155, line 27, correct the total.

5

6 On page 159, after line 39, insert the following:

7 "(17)(a) \$100,000 of the insurance commissioner's regulatory
8 account—state appropriation is provided solely for the commissioner
9 to coordinate with the utilities and transportation commission to
10 jointly convene a utility liability insurance work group and report
11 its findings to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
12 legislature by June 1, 2023.

13 (b) The work group must include:

14 (i) two members representing investor-owned utilities;

15 (ii) two members representing consumer-owned utilities;

16 (iii) at least one member from central or eastern Washington; and

17 (iv) two representatives of the insurance industry.

18 (c) The work group shall:

19 (i) Review the availability and cost of liability insurance for
20 electric utilities;

21 (ii) Identify obstacles to electric utility access to liability
22 insurance, including market conditions as well as legal and
23 regulatory requirements;

24 (iii) Evaluate financial risk to electric utilities, ratepayers,
25 property owners, and others that exists as a result of the increased
26 cost of insurance or in the event electric utilities are
27 underinsured as a result of a lack of access to coverage; and

1 (iv) Make policy recommendations to improve access to liability
2 insurance coverage for electric utilities.

3 (d) In conducting the tasks of the work group, utilities may not
4 be required to provide commercially sensitive information, including
5 insurance terms and costs.

6 (e) The commissioner may contract services to assist in the work
7 group's efforts."

8
9 On page 162, line 12, increase the General Fund-State
10 Appropriation for fiscal year 2023 by \$50,000

11
12 On page 162, line 24, correct the total.

13
14 On page 164, after line 16, insert the following:

15 "(9) \$50,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal
16 year 2023 is provided solely for commission to coordinate with the
17 office of the insurance commissioner to convene a utility liability
18 insurance work group and report its finding to the governor and the
19 appropriate committees of the legislature by June 1, 2023."

20
21

EFFECT: Directs the Office of the Insurance Commissioner and the Utilities and Transportation Commission to coordinate in convening a work group of certain entities to study and report on the cost and other factors of insurance for electric utilities.

FISCAL IMPACT:
Increases General Fund - State by \$50,000.
Increases Insurance Comm Regul - State by \$100,000.

--- END ---