

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1623**

67th Legislature  
2022 Regular Session

Passed by the House February 10, 2022  
Yeas 93 Nays 0

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**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2022  
Yeas 49 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1623** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1623**

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Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** House Environment & Energy (originally sponsored by Representatives Mosbrucker, Fitzgibbon, Leavitt, Ryu, Duerr, Graham, Wicks, Callan, Fey, Paul, Ramos, Wylie, Slatter, Kloba, and Harris-Talley)

READ FIRST TIME 01/18/22.

1       AN ACT Relating to addressing the extent to which Washington  
2 residents are at risk of rolling blackouts and power supply  
3 inadequacy events; amending RCW 19.280.065; creating a new section;  
4 and providing an expiration date.

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

6       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the electric  
7 grid is undergoing profound changes. Due to decreasing costs of  
8 renewable generation and policies like the clean energy  
9 transformation act, the grid is gradually evolving from one built to  
10 deliver to the customer electricity from centralized electric  
11 generation plants to one with variable energy resources like  
12 windmills and solar panels dispersed geographically across a broad  
13 landscape. As described in the 2021 Washington state energy strategy,  
14 the grid that our region is transitioning to will require greater  
15 transmission capacity and make greater use of energy storage and  
16 customer-side resources to manage the generation on the supply side.

17       As clean electricity replaces fossil fuels in the state's  
18 economy, the transmission and distribution infrastructure, the sticks  
19 and wires of the grid, must meet increasingly complex service  
20 requirements and loads. The changing demand includes, but is not  
21 limited to, vehicle charging, serving other specialized technology

1 that requires high power quality, electrification of building-related  
2 end uses now served by fossil fuels, electricity deployed on the  
3 customer side of the meter through net metering, community solar  
4 programs, and the growth of demand response programs.

5 Further, the clean energy transformation act requires that  
6 utilities making investments in new resources after May 2019, rely on  
7 energy efficiency, demand response, renewable resources, and energy  
8 storage to the maximum extent feasible, while transitioning away from  
9 coal and natural gas-fired generation. Electric utilities are  
10 actively working to ensure resource adequacy through the development  
11 of explicit resource adequacy standards and a standardized resource  
12 adequacy program. This work is ongoing and should result in a binding  
13 and enforceable program with a robust public oversight mechanism.  
14 Understanding and addressing any energy adequacy challenges created  
15 by a deeply decarbonized grid is key to keeping the state's supply of  
16 electricity reliable.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.280.065 and 2020 c 63 s 2 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) At least once every twelve months, the department and the  
20 commission shall jointly convene a meeting of representatives of the  
21 investor-owned utilities and consumer-owned utilities, regional  
22 planning organizations, transmission operators, and other  
23 stakeholders to discuss the current, short-term, and long-term  
24 adequacy of energy resources to serve the state's electric needs, and  
25 address specific steps the utilities can take to coordinate planning  
26 in light of the significant changes to the Northwest's power system  
27 including, but not limited to, technological developments,  
28 retirements of legacy baseload power generation resources, and  
29 changes in laws and regulations affecting power supply options. The  
30 department and commission shall provide a summary of these meetings,  
31 including any specific action items, to the governor and legislature  
32 within sixty days of the meeting.

33 (2) In 2022, the meeting convened by the department and the  
34 commission pursuant to subsection (1) of this section must  
35 specifically address the extent to which Washington residents are at  
36 risk of rolling blackouts and power supply inadequacy events.  
37 Stakeholders must be surveyed for recommendations on policy options  
38 to prevent severe blackouts. The meeting must also focus discussion  
39 on the extent to which proposed laws and regulations seeking an

1 aggressive timeline for building electrification and transportation  
2 system electrification may require new state policy for resource  
3 adequacy. The stakeholder meeting should seek to identify regulatory  
4 and statutory incentives to enhance and ensure resource adequacy and  
5 reliability as the clean energy transition evolves.

6 (3) This section expires January 1, ((2025)) 2030.

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