

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5287

As of January 18, 2023

Title: An act relating to a study on the recycling of wind turbine blades.

Brief Description: Concerning a study on the recycling of wind turbine blades.

Sponsors: Senators Wilson, J., Nguyen, Hasegawa, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Schoesler and Wellman.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Environment, Energy & Technology: 1/20/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Washington State University Extension Energy Program to conduct a study on the feasibility of recycling wind turbine blades installed in facilities in Washington that generate electricity for customers in Washington.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

Staff: Angela Kleis (786-7469)

Background: According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, wind power is the second-largest contributor to Washington's renewable electricity generation. As of 2021, the state had almost 3400 megawatts of wind-powered capacity. The state's largest wind farm, which came online in 2012, is along the Snake River in southeastern Washington and has a capacity of about 343 megawatts.

Wind turbine blades have an expected 20-year lifespan and are typically made of steel, plastic, and fiberglass materials. They vary in size, but a typical modern land-based wind turbine has blades over 170 feet.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: Subject to appropriations, the Washington State University Extension Energy Program must conduct a study on the feasibility of recycling wind turbine blades installed in facilities in Washington that generate electricity for customers in Washington.

The study must include information and recommendations on specified criteria such as:

- the cost, feasibility, and environmental impact of various disposal methods for wind turbine blades;
- considerations and options for the design of a state-managed product stewardship program; and
- the feasibility of including all wind turbine blades installed in Washington in a recycling program, including blades that are currently installed.

A report of findings must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2023.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.