
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1176

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Slatter, Fitzgibbon, Berry, Walen, Ramel, Leavitt, Taylor, Callan, Macri, Ryu, Reeves, Reed, Mena, Chopp, Duerr, Thai, Wylie, Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Pollet, and Tharinger; by request of Office of the Governor)

READ FIRST TIME 01/27/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing opportunities for service and
2 workforce programs to support climate-ready communities; adding new
3 sections to chapter 43.41 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28C.18
4 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW 43.330.310, 50.12.320,
5 and 28C.18.170.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that
8 climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the state and
9 the world today, and that we must mobilize Washington's young adults,
10 veterans, and workforce to create the clean energy economy and
11 strengthen our communities and ecosystems in the face of climate
12 impacts.

13 (2) The legislature finds that service provides a unique
14 opportunity to mobilize young adults and veterans to build clean
15 energy and climate-resilient communities, economies, and ecosystems.
16 Growing equity-centered, climate-related service programs and
17 addressing critical gaps in service opportunities will broaden access
18 to service, ensuring that young adults and veterans of all
19 backgrounds, especially from overburdened communities and vulnerable
20 populations, can serve. Doing so will also ensure that service
21 programs address the needs of communities across the state,

1 especially those communities disproportionately impacted by
2 environmental and health burdens.

3 (3) The legislature further finds as our state transitions away
4 from a fossil fuel-based economy, we must do so in a way that fosters
5 innovation, investment, and growth in clean energy technology sectors
6 and jobs so our businesses, workforce, and communities can thrive. As
7 state, federal, local, and tribal governments implement policies to
8 mitigate the destructive forces of climate change, there will be
9 consequences for Washington's businesses, workers, and communities.
10 Accomplishing an equitable transition will require identification of
11 future industry occupations and skill needs, the existing workforce's
12 transferrable skills to meet those needs, and the gaps that need to
13 be addressed through training and education. The state must also
14 provide support in the transition for workers and communities
15 experiencing declining jobs and revenues associated with high-
16 emissions technologies.

17 (4) Therefore, to create pathways for workers, young adults, and
18 veterans to help build our clean energy, climate-resilient future,
19 the legislature intends to create the Washington climate corps
20 network and to direct the Washington state workforce training and
21 education coordinating board to establish a clean energy technology
22 advisory committee and to evaluate clean energy technology workforce
23 needs and make recommendations to the governor and legislature.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) The Washington climate corps network is established to
27 support and grow climate-related service opportunities for young
28 adults and veterans with the objective of building low-carbon and
29 climate-resilient communities, ecosystems, and economies while
30 providing education, workforce development, and career pathways to
31 service members, with a focus on overburdened communities as defined
32 in RCW 70A.02.010. The Washington climate corps network shall be
33 administered by serve Washington, an entity created in Executive
34 Order 16-08, signed August 24, 2016. The office shall provide the
35 administrative support to serve Washington to facilitate the
36 establishment and operation of the Washington climate corps network.

37 (2) Serve Washington has the following duties:

38 (a) Connect, amplify, and grow climate-related service
39 opportunities to mobilize and train young adults and veterans to

1 build clean energy and climate-resilient communities, economies, and
2 ecosystems, with priority on doing so in overburdened communities as
3 defined in RCW 70A.02.010. In growing new, climate-related service
4 opportunities, serve Washington shall consider the findings and
5 recommendations from the clean energy technology workforce advisory
6 committee established under section 4 of this act and the needs and
7 recommendations developed under RCW 76.04.521 for forest sector
8 workforce development;

9 (b) Establish common requirements for participating service
10 programs including, but not limited to, a focus on climate-related
11 activities, service member participation in events, and service
12 member participation in the service-learning program established in
13 (c) of this subsection;

14 (c) Develop and administer a service-learning program that
15 provides training to climate corps network service members during
16 their tenure of service. The service-learning program must provide
17 training and learning opportunities to develop leadership skills,
18 foster environmental stewardship and civic engagement, and expose
19 members to an array of climate-related professional and educational
20 opportunities. Training shall not supplant or replace state
21 registered apprenticeship programs approved under chapter 49.04 RCW.
22 Serve Washington shall leverage opportunities to align the service-
23 learning program with training offered by career connect Washington
24 under chapter 28C.30 RCW and by the department of natural resources
25 under RCW 76.04.521. Serve Washington shall coordinate with the
26 following entities in the design and administration of the service-
27 learning program: Service programs; tribes; environmental justice
28 organizations; labor organizations; institutions that provide career
29 and technical education; the workforce training and education
30 coordinating board created in chapter 28C.18 RCW; career connect
31 Washington authorized under chapter 28C.30 RCW; and the department of
32 natural resources; and

33 (d) Administer grants to support and broaden access to climate-
34 related service programs, with priority to supporting service in,
35 for, or by members of overburdened communities as defined in RCW
36 70A.02.010. Serve Washington shall establish a transparent process
37 for establishing priorities and selection criteria. Serve Washington
38 may provide grants to:

39 (i) Support equitable access to participation in the Washington
40 climate corps network and reduce financial barriers for service

1 members. This includes, but is not limited to, augmenting a service
2 member's living allowance with the intent to achieve or exceed the
3 living wage established in the county of service, if a living wage is
4 in place;

5 (ii) Reduce the cost of climate corps network service programs to
6 host service members; and

7 (iii) Support the development of new service programs in
8 geographic and topical areas that currently lack robust climate-
9 related service programs.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) In administration of the Washington climate corps network,
13 the office and serve Washington have the following powers:

14 (a) The office, in consultation with serve Washington, may adopt
15 rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW as shall be necessary to
16 implement the purpose of this chapter. Rules may include provisions
17 to:

18 (i) Establish common requirements and eligibility criteria under
19 section 2(2)(b) of this act;

20 (ii) Establish a transparent process for establishing priorities
21 and selection criteria for grants dispersed under section 2(2)(d) of
22 this act;

23 (b) Receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private
24 sources that are made for the use or benefit of the Washington
25 climate corps network and to expend the same or any income therefrom
26 according to their terms and the purpose of this chapter.

27 (2) In carrying out its duties, serve Washington may establish
28 such relationships with public and private institutions, the federal
29 government, tribes, local governments, private industry, community
30 organizations, and other segments of the general public as may be
31 needed to promote and enable climate action through service.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) The board shall establish a clean energy technology workforce
35 advisory committee. The goal of the clean energy technology workforce
36 advisory committee is to advise policymakers on efforts to support
37 the expansion of clean energy technology sectors and jobs by
38 prioritizing transition of the existing skilled workforce to new

1 industry sectors and providing training opportunities where needed to
2 address gaps, as well as mitigating the impact of climate change
3 policy transitions to workers, employers, and communities.

4 (2) The clean energy technology workforce advisory committee
5 shall:

6 (a) Review workforce and business issues in direct employment in
7 the energy sector, in its supply chain, and the impacts of the energy
8 transition to dependent sectors; and

9 (b) Recommend strategies to prevent workforce displacement, to
10 support job creation in clean energy technology sectors, and to
11 provide support for workforce-related changes to businesses and for
12 adversely impacted workers.

13 (3) Clean energy technology workforce advisory committee
14 membership is open to all interested parties including, but not
15 limited to, business and worker representatives from sectors of the
16 economy affected by the transition to clean energy.

17 (4) The clean energy technology workforce advisory committee
18 shall select a cochair representing business and a cochair
19 representing workers to lead the committee. Board staff shall
20 coordinate with the cochairs to ensure that input into and
21 deliberations of the committee reflect a balance of employer and
22 worker perspectives.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) Each biennium, in consultation with the clean energy
26 technology workforce advisory committee established in section 4 of
27 this act and, at minimum, the department of commerce and the
28 employment security department, the board shall evaluate the
29 workforce impact of Washington's climate policies, including:

30 (a) Labor market trends and current and projected workforce
31 demand in both traditional and clean energy technology professions,
32 and restructuring of jobs and adjusted skillsets associated with
33 climate change mitigation policies;

34 (b) The wage and benefits range of jobs within the clean energy
35 technology sector;

36 (c) Demographics of the traditional and clean energy technology
37 sectors;

38 (d) An inventory of skills needed in clean energy technology
39 jobs, an analysis of how the skills and training of the existing

1 workforce can fill those needs, and identification of additional
2 workforce development needs in this sector; and

3 (e) Key challenges that could emerge under multiple future
4 decarbonization scenarios based on factors such as rates of adoption
5 of various new energy technologies; growth in demand for clean
6 electricity; and changes in energy production and availability from
7 both in-state and out-of-state sources.

8 (2) The board shall consult with career connect Washington
9 authorized under chapter 28C.30 RCW, and shall conduct a literature
10 review of the existing models, data, and study findings related to
11 the evaluation in subsection (1) of this section to ensure a
12 duplication of efforts does not occur.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) Each biennium, the board shall develop recommendations for
16 necessary steps to support workforce training required for clean
17 energy technology occupations. The board shall consult with impacted
18 postsecondary training partners, including higher education providers
19 and apprenticeship programs, and consider the following parameters in
20 the development of their analysis and recommendations, including
21 identifying:

22 (a) Occupational training and skills already covered in existing
23 training programs;

24 (b) New skills that can be integrated into existing training
25 programs;

26 (c) Occupations and skillsets that require new training programs
27 to be developed; and

28 (d) Resources needed to deliver training programs and support
29 workers in the transition to clean energy technology.

30 (2) The board shall conduct a study of the feasibility of a
31 transition to retirement program to preserve income, medical, and
32 retirement benefits for workers close to retirement who face job loss
33 or transition because of energy technology sector changes. The board
34 may contract with an organization to complete the study.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 Beginning November 1, 2023, and at least once every two years
38 thereafter, the board shall report to the governor and the

1 appropriate committees of the legislature with recommendations on how
2 the state can support worker and employer needs in response to
3 changing workforce requirements for clean energy technology. The
4 report must include the recommendations of the clean energy
5 technology workforce advisory committee established in section 4 of
6 this act, the findings of the board's evaluation in section 5 of this
7 act, and the board's training recommendations in section 6 of this
8 act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The following acts or parts of acts are
10 each repealed:

11 (1) RCW 43.330.310 (Comprehensive green economy jobs growth
12 initiative—Establishment) and 2014 c 112 s 117;

13 (2) RCW 50.12.320 (Labor market research—High-demand green
14 industries—Middle or high-wage occupations) and 2009 c 536 s 11; and

15 (3) RCW 28C.18.170 (Green industry skill panels—Prioritization of
16 workforce training programs) and 2009 c 536 s 8.

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