#### HOUSE BILL 1900

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Fey, Reeves, Walen, Rule, Chapman, Bronoske, Wylie, Low, Ryu, Leavitt, Ramos, Callan, Kloba, Berg, Thai, Pollet, and Shavers

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AN ACT Relating to implementing strategies to achieve higher 1 2 recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management 3 amending RCW 70A.245.010, 70A.245.020, 70A.245.060, 70A.245.090, 70A.245.110, 70A.245.120, 4 70A.245.040, 5 70A.245.100, 70A.245.110, and 70A.65.260; reenacting and amending RCW 43.21B.110; adding new sections to chapter 70A.245 RCW; adding a new 6 7 chapter to Title 70A RCW; creating new sections; and prescribing 8 penalties.

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

10 **PART 1**11 **INTENT** 

12 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 101.** INTENT. (1) The legislature finds that:

- 13 (a) Washington state has been a leader in recycling policy, 14 reaching the goal of 50 percent recycling set by the legislature in 15 RCW 70A.205.005. The legislature further finds that, since meeting 16 the state's goal to achieve a 50 percent recycling rate, global 17 market conditions have caused the recycling rate to fall below 50 18 percent.
- 19 (b) New goals and target recycling rates must be established and 20 a comprehensive needs assessment is necessary to implement

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- improvements to Washington's existing recycling system to reach those goals.
  - (c) 88 percent of Washington residents living in single-family homes and 77 percent living in multifamily residences have access to curbside recycling services through a robust regulatory structure that ensures equal access to services at affordable rates.
  - (d) The investments in infrastructure by Washington companies has led to the development of materials sorting and processing superior to most other states.
    - (2) It is the intent of the legislature that:

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- 11 (a) Producers increase the use of postconsumer recycled content 12 in their products, to achieve the goals in RCW 70A.520.010(2) and to 13 create strong markets for recycled materials and achieve 14 environmental benefits; and
- 15 (b) Through design and innovation, producers will reduce the use 16 and climate impact of consumer packaging and paper products and 17 increase the use of postconsumer recycled content.
  - (3) (a) The legislature finds that contamination in the recycling stream is a major impediment to higher recovery rates.
  - (b) It is the intent of the legislature to implement proven strategies to address these challenges, including:
    - (i) The establishment of a single statewide list of materials for recyclables collected through Washington's curbside recycling system to reduce confusion and increase participation;
  - (ii) A robust needs assessment unique to Washington state to determine costs and investments necessary to achieve a 60 percent overall recycling rate for packaging;
  - (iii) Restrictions on the use of recycling symbols on packaging that cannot be readily recycled through Washington's recycling system; and
- 31 (iv) The expansion of the successful recycled content 32 requirements to ensure more materials are manufactured with 33 postconsumer material.
  - (4) Finally, it is the intent of the legislature that Washington should maintain the successful public-private partnership between state, local government, and solid waste and recycling service providers. The legislature does not intend to diminish or displace the primary role of the utilities and transportation commission and local governments in regulating or contracting directly with service providers for the curbside collection of residential recyclables.

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- 1 Local governments maintain their existing authority to collect,
- 2 contract for collection with solid waste and recycling service
- 3 providers, or defer to solid waste collection services regulated by
- 4 the utilities and transportation commission.

### 5 PART 2

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### TRUTH IN LABELING, RATES STUDY, MATERIALS LIST, AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 201. DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 10 (1)(a) "Chasing arrows symbol" means an equilateral triangle, 11 formed by three arrows curved at their midpoints, depicting a 12 clockwise path, with a short gap separating the apex of each arrow 13 from the base of the adjacent arrow.
- 14 (b) "Chasing arrows symbol" also includes variants of that symbol
  15 that are likely to be interpreted by a consumer as an implication of
  16 recyclability including, but not limited to, one or more arrows
  17 arranged in a circular pattern or around a globe.
- 18 (2) "Consumable product" means a commodity that is intended to be 19 used and not disposed of.
- 20 (3) "Covered product" means packaging and paper products sold or 21 supplied to consumers for personal, noncommercial use.
  - (4) "Department" means the department of ecology.
  - (5) "Glass" means a covered product made of soda lime glass.
- 24 (6) "Material category" means a group of covered products that 25 have similar properties such as chemical composition, shape, or other 26 characteristics.
- (7) "Overburdened community" means an overburdened community identified and prioritized by the department under RCW 70A.02.050(1)(a).
- 30 (8)(a) "Packaging" means a material, substance, or object that 31 is:
  - (i) Used to protect, contain, transport, or serve an item;
- 33 (ii) Sold or supplied to consumers expressly for the purpose of 34 protecting, containing, transporting, or serving items;
- 35 (iii) Attached to an item or its container for the purpose of 36 marketing or communicating information about the item;
- 37 (iv) Supplied at the point of sale to facilitate the delivery of 38 the item; or

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- (v) Supplied to or purchased by consumers expressly for the purpose of facilitating food or beverage consumption that is ordinarily discarded by consumers after a single use or short-term use, whether or not it could be reused.
  - (b) "Packaging" does not include:

- (i) Materials intended to be used for the long-term storage or protection of a durable product, that is intended to transport, protect, or store the durable product on an ongoing basis, and that can be expected to be usable for that purpose for a period of at least five years;
- (ii) For purposes of this chapter only, materials used to package pesticide products regulated by the federal insecticide, fungicide, and rodenticide act, 7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq., that are in direct contact with the regulated product. This exemption does not include products regulated by the United States food and drug administration;
- (iii) Liquefied petroleum gas containers that are designed to be refilled and reused;
  - (iv) (A) Packaging for drugs that are used for animal medicines including parasiticide products for animals; and (B) packaging for products intended for animals that are regulated as animal drugs, biologics, parasiticides, medical devices, or diagnostics used to treat, or administered to, animals under the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act, 21 U.S.C. Sec. 301 et seq., the federal insecticide, fungicide, and rodenticide act, 7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq., or the federal virus-serum-toxin act, 21 U.S.C. Sec. 151 et seq., as amended;
  - (v) Packaging for products that are regulated as a medical device or drug by the United States food and drug administration under the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act, 21 U.S.C. Sec. 321 et seq.; and
  - (vi) Packaging related to containers of architectural paint that has been collected by a stewardship organization under the program established in chapter 70A.515 RCW.
  - (9) "Paper product" means paper sold or supplied including flyers, brochures, booklets, catalogs, magazines, copy paper, printing paper, and all other paper materials except for: (a) Bound books; (b) conservation grade and archival grade paper; (c) newspapers; (d) paper designed for use in building construction; and (e) paper products that, by any common and foreseeable use, could reasonably be anticipated to become unsafe or unsanitary to handle.

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- 1 (10)(a) "Producer" means the following person responsible for 2 compliance with covered product registration and reporting 3 requirements under this chapter for a covered product sold, offered 4 for sale, or distributed in or into this state:
- 5 (i) If the covered product is sold under the manufacturer's own 6 brand or lacks identification of a brand, the producer is the person 7 who manufactures the covered product;
  - (ii) If the covered product is manufactured by a person other than the brand owner, the producer is the person who is the licensee of a brand or trademark under which a covered product is sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into this state, whether or not the trademark is registered in this state, unless the manufacturer or brand owner of the covered product has agreed to accept responsibility under this chapter; or
- (iii) If there is no person described in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection over whom the state can constitutionally exercise jurisdiction, the producer is the person who imports or distributes the covered product in or into the state.
  - (b) "Producer" does not include:

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- 20 (i) Government agencies, municipalities, or other political subdivisions of the state;
- (ii) Registered 501(c)(3) charitable organizations and 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations; or
  - (iii) De minimis producers that annually sell, offer for sale, distribute, or import in or into the country for sale in Washington:
    - (A) Less than one ton of covered products each year; or
- 27 (B) A single category of a covered product that in aggregate 28 generates less than \$1,000,000 each year in revenue.
- 29 (11) "Vulnerable population" has the same meaning as in RCW 30 70A.02.010.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 202. TRUTH IN LABELING. (1) Beginning January 1, 2028, a producer may not offer for sale, sell, or distribute in or into Washington, including by means of remote sale, any covered product that makes a deceptive or misleading claim about its recyclability.
- 36 (a) A product or packaging that displays a chasing arrows symbol, 37 a chasing arrows symbol surrounding a resin identification code, or 38 any other symbol or statement indicating that it is recyclable or 39 otherwise directing the consumer to recycle the product or packaging,

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is deemed to be a deceptive or misleading claim under this section unless the product or packaging is considered recyclable in the state under section 204 of this act and is of a material type and form that routinely becomes feedstock used in the production of new products or packaging or is exempt under (b) of this subsection.

- (b) (a) of this subsection does not apply to products or packaging:
- (i) For which a symbol or statement described in (a) of this subsection is required by another state or by a federal law or agency in the United States at the time that the claim is made;
- (ii) For which a symbol or statement described in (a) of this subsection is part of a widely adopted and standardized third-party labeling system;
- (iii) For which a chasing arrows symbol is used in combination with a clearly visible line placed at a 45-degree angle over the chasing arrows symbol to convey that an item is not recyclable;
- (iv) Manufactured up to 18 months after the date the department publishes the first material characterization study required under section 203 of this act, or before January 1, 2028, whichever is later; or
- (v) Any product or packaging manufactured up to 18 months after the date the department updates the material characterization study under section 203 of this act, if the product or packaging satisfied or, for a new product or packaging, would have satisfied, the requirements to be considered recyclable in the state under section 204 of this act before the publication of the updated study.
- (c) For a product or packaging that is not considered to be recyclable in the state under section 204 of this act, all the following apply:
- (i) Displaying a chasing arrows symbol or any other statement indicating the product is recyclable directly on the product is deemed to be deceptive or misleading under this section;
- (ii) If a product or packaging has multiple material types, a chasing arrows symbol or statement indicating recyclability may be displayed on the external packaging that is considered to be recyclable in the state under section 204 of this act if the chasing arrows symbol or statement makes clear in the same or greater font, font size, or symbol size which other components of the product or packaging are not recyclable; and

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1 (iii) Displaying a chasing arrows symbol or any other statement 2 indicating recyclability on packaging containing a consumable product 3 shall, for purposes of this section, be deemed to refer only to the 4 packaging.

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- (2) At such time as an enforceable federal statutory or regulatory standard is implemented for labeling packaging related to recyclability, within 180 days the department shall review criteria under this chapter with federal standards or requirements. Upon completing its review, the department may adopt the federal criteria in lieu of the requirements of this section.
- (3) As of the effective date of this section, a city, town, or county may not enact an ordinance restricting the distribution or sale of covered products due to displaying a chasing arrows symbol, a chasing arrows symbol surrounding a resin identification code, or any other symbol or statement indicating that it is recyclable if the covered product is, at the time that the claim is made:
- 17 (a) Required to display the symbol or statement by another state 18 or by a federal law or agency;
- 19 (b) Part of a widely adopted and standardized third-party 20 labeling system:
- 21 (i) For which a symbol or statement described in subsection 22 (1)(a) of this section is in compliance with the federal trade 23 commission green guides; or
- (ii) For which a symbol or statement described in subsection (1)(a) of this section incorporates by reference the ASTM standards for coding resin; or
- (c) Using a chasing arrows symbol in combination with a clearly visible line placed at a 45-degree angle over the chasing arrows symbol to convey that an item is not recyclable.
- 30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 203. MATERIAL CHARACTERIZATION STUDY. (1) By 31 2027, the department shall produce a material 1, characterization study to provide information to the 32 sufficient for evaluating whether a product or packaging 33 recyclable in the state according to the criteria set forth in 34 section 204 of this act and are of material types and forms that 35 routinely become feedstock used in the production of new products or 36 37 packaging.
- 38 (a) The department shall conduct and publish on its website a 39 characterization study of material types and forms that are

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- collected, sorted, sold, or transferred by facilities that process recyclable materials from curbside recycling programs and other solid waste facilities deemed appropriate by the department for inclusion in the study.
  - (b) The material characterization study must:

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- (i) Use data from statistically valid and representative samples of materials collected from curbside recycling programs in the state analyzed using industry standard methodologies;
- 9 (ii) Identify what material types and forms are actively sorted 10 for recycling, and not considered contaminants, by included 11 operations or facilities;
  - (iii) Identify what material types and forms are not sorted for recycling, and are considered contaminants, by included operations or facilities; and
- 15 (iv) Identify how the material collected or processed by the operations and facilities was collected.
  - (2) The department shall update the material characterization study required under this section no less often than every five years, with the first update being issued by the department in 2030.
  - (3) For each material characterization study conducted under this section, the department shall publish on its website the preliminary findings of the study and conduct a public meeting to present the preliminary findings and receive public comments. The public meeting must occur at least 30 days after the department publishes the preliminary findings. After receiving and considering public comments, and within 90 days of the public meeting, the department shall finalize and publish on its website the findings of the study.
  - (4) The department may publish additional information that was not available at the time of the most recent periodic material characterization study regarding the appropriate characterization of material types and forms.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 204. RECYCLABILITY DETERMINATIONS. (1) (a) A product or packaging is considered recyclable in the state if, based on information published by the department under section 203 of this act, the product or packaging is of a material type and form that meets both of the following requirements:
- 37 (i) The material type and form is collected for recycling by 38 recycling programs for jurisdictions that collectively encompass at 39 least 60 percent of the population of the state; and

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(ii) The material type and form are sorted into defined streams for recycling processes by large volume transfer or processing facilities, as provided in chapter 70A.205 RCW, that process materials and collectively serve at least 60 percent of recycling programs statewide, with the defined streams sent to and reclaimed at a reclaiming facility consistent with the requirements of chapter 70A.205 RCW.

- (b) The department may adopt rules modifying the requirement to encompass transfer or processing facilities other than large volume transfer or processing facilities as the department deems appropriate for achieving the purposes of this section.
- (2) A product or packaging is not considered recyclable in the state unless the product or packaging meets all the following criteria, as applicable:
- (a) For plastic packaging, the plastic packaging is designed to not include any components, inks, adhesives, or labels that prevent the recyclability of the packaging according to the association of plastic recyclers design guide published by the association of plastic recyclers; and
- (b) For plastic products and nonplastic products and packaging, the product or packaging is designed to ensure recyclability and does not include any components, inks, adhesives, or labels that prevent the recyclability of the product or packaging.
- (3) A product or packaging is recyclable in the state if the product or packaging has a demonstrated recycling rate of at least 75 percent, meaning that not less than 75 percent of the product or packaging sorted and aggregated in the state is reprocessed into new products or packaging.
- (4) Before January 1, 2033, a product or packaging not collected under a curbside collection program is recyclable in the state if the noncurbside collection program recovers at least 60 percent of the product or packaging in the program and the material has sufficient commercial value to be marketed for recycling and be transported at the end of its useful life to a transfer, processing, or recycling facility to be sorted and aggregated into defined streams by material type and form.
- (5) After January 1, 2033, a product or packaging not collected under a curbside collection program is recyclable in the state if the noncurbside collection program recovers at least 75 percent of the product or packaging in the program and the material has sufficient

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commercial value to be marketed for recycling and be transported at the end of its useful life to a transfer, processing, or recycling facility to be sorted and aggregated into defined streams by material type and form.

- (6) A product or packaging is recyclable in the state if the product or packaging is part of, and in compliance with, a program established under state or federal law on or after January 1, 2026, governing the recyclability or disposal of that product or packaging if the director of the department determines that the product or packaging will not increase contamination of curbside recycling or deceive consumers as to the recyclability of the product or packaging.
- 13 (7) The information published by the department under section 203 14 of this act does not limit the discretion of a local government under 15 existing law to decide whether, and to what extent, a material type 16 or form is accepted by a local recycling program.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 205. ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT FUTURE INCREASES
  IN RECOVERY RATES. (1) To inform the future development of strategies
  to increase recovery rates consistent with the goals established in
  subsection (2) of this section, the department must:
  - (a) Identify a statewide list of materials suitable for curbside collection services and a statewide list of materials suitable for drop-off collection, consistent with section 207 of this act, to be completed by October 1, 2025;
  - (b) Complete a statewide needs assessment that must use the recycling rates from the department's December 2023 Washington Recycling, Reuse, and Source Reduction Target Study and Community Input Process, and be carried out by a third-party consultant selected by the department, consistent with section 208 of this act, and completed by October 1, 2026; and
  - (c) Begin overseeing the registration and data reporting of producers of packaging, consistent with section 209 of this act.
    - (2) (a) A goal is established for the state to achieve a recycling rate of 60 percent for covered products. The department must, in consultation with the advisory committee established in section 211 of this act, identify a methodology for calculating progress towards this goal as part of its duties under section 208 of this act, and must begin tracking and periodically making public the state's

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- 1 progress towards this goal beginning in the year following the 2 initial reporting of data by producers under section 209 of this act.
- 3 (b)(i) A goal is established for the state to reduce the sale or 4 use of packaging that is not determined to be recyclable under 5 section 204 of this act by:
  - (A) 50 percent by the year 2030; and
  - (B) 75 percent by the year 2035.

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- 8 (ii) The department must measure progress toward the achievement 9 of the goals established in (b)(i) of this subsection in conjunction 10 with the update to each material characterization study it completes 11 consistent with section 203(2) of this act.
- 12 (c) The goals established in this subsection must be used to 13 inform the statewide needs assessment in section 208 of this act.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 206. PERFORMANCE RATES STUDY. For purposes of implementing this chapter, the department must, where appropriate, use and rely on the department's December 2023 Washington Recycling, Reuse, and Source Reduction Target Study and Community Input Process.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 207. RECYCLABLE MATERIALS SUITABLE FOR COLLECTION. (1)(a) By October 1, 2025, the department must develop and publish a:
- 21 (i) List of recyclable materials suitable for curbside collection 22 from residents in single-family and multifamily residences; and
- 23 (ii) Separate list of materials suitable for residential drop-off collection.
  - (b) The department must review and update the lists in (a) of this subsection by October 1, 2030, and no less often than every five years thereafter. During the review and update of the lists, the department must newly review each material included on the previous versions of the lists using the factors described in subsection (4) of this section, and may only continue to include materials on a list after considering the factors described in subsection (4) of this section.
- 33 (2) The initial list of materials suitable for curbside 34 collection developed and published under this section must include 35 the following materials:
- 36 (a) Newspaper;
- 37 (b) Paperboard and chipboard;
- 38 (c) Loose paper;

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- 1 (d) Corrugated cardboard;
- 2 (e) Magazines;
- 3 (f) Envelopes;
- 4 (q) Aluminum cans;
- 5 (h) Tin or steel cans;
- 6 (i) High density polyethylene plastic containers; and
- 7 (j) Polyethylene terephthalate containers.
- 8 (3) The initial list of materials suitable for drop-off 9 residential collection must include the following materials:
  - (a) Glass; and

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- 11 (b) Flexible plastic.
- 12 (4) In addition to the materials identified under subsections (2)
- 13 and (3) of this section, the department may identify additional
- 14 materials for inclusion on a list or remove materials from inclusion
- 15 on a list based on consultation with the stakeholder advisory
- 16 committee established in section 211 of this act, and after
- 17 considering the following factors:
- 18 (a) The stability, maturity, accessibility, and viability of 19 responsible end markets;
- 20 (b) Economic factors;
- 21 (c) Environmental factors from a life-cycle perspective;
- 22 (d) The material's compatibility with existing recycling 23 infrastructure;
  - (e) The amount of the material available;
- 25 (f) The ability for waste generators to easily identify and 26 properly prepare the material;
  - (g) The practicalities of sorting and storing the material;
- 28 (h) Contamination;
- 29 (i) Environmental health and safety considerations; and
- 30 (j) The anticipated yield loss for the material during the 31 recycling process.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 208. STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT. (1) The statewide needs assessment must be consistent with the following requirements:
- 35 (a) The final scope of the statewide needs assessment must be 36 determined after considering comments and recommendations from 37 stakeholders, each jurisdiction planning under chapter 70A.205 RCW, 38 and the advisory committee established in section 211 of this act; 39 and

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- 1 (b) Stakeholders, jurisdictions planning under chapter 70A.205 2 RCW, and the advisory committee must have the opportunity to review 3 and comment on the draft statewide needs assessment at least 90 days 4 prior to its completion.
  - (2) The statewide needs assessment must be:

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- (a) Informed by the findings and recommendations of the 2023 performance rates study identified in section 206 of this act and rates and other comments suggested by stakeholders and the advisory committee;
- (b) Limited to covered products collected from residents in single-family and multifamily residences included on the list developed and published by the department in section 207 of this act;
- 13 (c) Completed only after individual consultation with each jurisdiction planning under chapter 70A.205 RCW; and
- 15 (d) Accepted from the selected consultant as complete by the department.
  - (3) The statewide needs assessment must:
  - (a) For each jurisdiction planning under chapter 70A.205 RCW, evaluate the capacity, costs, gaps, and needs for the following factors necessary to achieve performance rate recommendations identified under section 206 of this act:
  - (i) Availability and types of recycling services for covered products for residents in single-family and multifamily residences, including whether current services are considered residential or commercial and whether any gaps, costs, or needs are specific to either commercial or residential customer service;
  - (ii) (A) The current methods and infrastructure for serving residents, including curbside recycling service areas and material drop-off locations;
  - (B) Any densely populated areas within each jurisdiction in which curbside recycling services for covered products identified by the department on the list developed and published under section 207 of this act are not available or are only partially available;
  - (C) Any areas within each jurisdiction where curbside garbage collection services are offered to residents in single-family and multifamily residences but curbside recycling services are not offered;
    - (iii) Education and outreach activities;

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(iv) Availability and performance of collection, transport, and processing capacity and infrastructure, including consideration of material quality and contamination;

- (v) Availability and performance of collection, transport, and processing capacity and infrastructure to manage compostable covered products, including consideration of the material quality and contamination;
- (vi) Necessary capital investments to existing reuse and recycling infrastructure, and how to maximize the use of existing infrastructure;
- (b) Compile information related to actual costs for curbside collection services, drop-off collection services, and other information relevant to the funding requirements to achieve performance rates, including costs for various service methods recommended by stakeholders during the study scoping process;
- (c) Estimate the total costs of investments necessary to reach target rates, within each jurisdiction, as well as ongoing program costs related to labor, equipment, and maintenance. Cost factors and variables to be considered in the estimates include:
  - (i) Population size and density of a local jurisdiction;
  - (ii) Types of households serviced and collection method used;
- 22 (iii) Distance from a local jurisdiction to the nearest recycling 23 facility;
  - (iv) Whether a jurisdiction pays for transportation and sorting of collected materials and whether it receives a commodity value from processed materials;
  - (v) Geographic location or other variables contributing to regional differences in costs;
    - (vi) Cost increases over time; and
- 30 (vii) Any other factors as determined to be necessary by the 31 department, with input from stakeholders;
  - (d)(i) Identify cost factors and other variables to be considered in the development of funding estimates for government entities for any services other than curbside collection to be carried out by government entities that may be needed to achieve performance rates developed under section 206 of this act;
- 37 (ii) Identify methods to consider greenhouse gas emissions and 38 other environmental outcomes associated with potential expansions of 39 curbside recycling services to rural or sparsely populated areas;

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(e) Compile relevant information to be considered in the development of criteria by the department to determine whether a covered product is recyclable, reusable, or compostable through Washington's curbside recycling collection system. The relevant information to be compiled may include whether covered product materials are:

- (i) Or may be, collected, separated, and processed in sufficient quantity and quality into a marketable feedstock that can be used in the production of new products; or
- 10 (ii) Designed in a way that is problematic for reuse, recycling, 11 or composting;
  - (f) Evaluate how the state's existing recycling system can be improved in a socially just manner as it relates to activities required under this chapter. The assessment must:
  - (i) Include meaningful consultation with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations;
- 17 (ii) Determine conditions and make recommendations including, at 18 minimum:
- 19 (A) Improving access to the recycling system for women and 20 minority individuals;
  - (B) The sufficiency of local government requirements related to multifamily recycling services and their implementation;
    - (C) Identification of activities that disproportionately impact any community and in particular overburdened communities and vulnerable populations;
    - (D) Improving the sufficiency of recycling education and outreach programs relative to desired socially just management outcomes;
    - (E) Recommendations for improving socially just management practices and outcomes in the state's recycling system; and
    - (F) Evaluate the extent to which covered products contribute to litter and marine debris. The assessment should draw on available data, assess gaps, and identify strategies for improving prevention and cleanup of litter and marine debris from covered products; and
    - (g) Compile information from available data sources on the presence of toxic substances in covered products and their potential impacts on reuse, recycling, and composting systems. The information compiled is intended to inform the development of ecomodulation factors that incentivize the reduction of toxic substances that have potentially negative impacts when covered products are managed through reuse, recycling, and composting systems.

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NEW SECTION. Sec. 209. COVERED PRODUCT PRODUCER REGISTRATION AND REPORTING. (1) Beginning January 1, 2025, a producer that offers for sale, sells, or distributes in or into Washington covered products must register with the department individually or through a third-party representative registering on behalf of a group of producers.

- (2) The registration information submitted to the department under this section must include a list of the producers of covered products and the brand names of the covered products represented in the registration submittal. Beginning in 2026, a producer may submit registration information at the same time as the information submitted through the annual reporting in subsection (3) of this section.
- (3) (a) Beginning April 1, 2026, each producer of covered products, individually or through a third party representing a group of producers, must provide an annual report to the department that includes, by material category, the volume in pounds of covered products sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington during the preceding calendar year.
- (b) The report must be submitted in a format and manner prescribed by the department. A manufacturer may submit national data allocated on a per capita basis for Washington to approximate the information required in this subsection if the producer or third-party representative demonstrates to the department that state level data are not available or feasible to generate.
- (c) The department must post the information reported under this subsection on its website, except as provided in (d) of this subsection.
- (d) A producer that submits information or records to the department under this chapter may request that the information or records be made available only for the confidential use of the department, the director, or the appropriate division of the department. The director of the department must give consideration to the request and if this action is not detrimental to the public interest and is otherwise in accordance with the policies and purposes of chapter 43.21A RCW, the director must grant the request for the information to remain confidential as authorized in RCW 43.21A.160.

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- NEW SECTION. Sec. 210. DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY OVERSIGHT. (1) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to administer, implement, and enforce this section and section 209 of this act.
- (2) (a) The department may conduct audits and investigations for the purpose of ensuring compliance with section 209 of this act.
- (b) The department shall annually publish a list of registered producers of covered products and associated brand names, their compliance status, and other information the department deems appropriate on the department's website.
- 10 (3)(a) By January 31, 2025, and every January 31st thereafter, 11 the department must:
  - (i) Prepare an annual workload analysis for public comment that identifies the annual costs it expects to incur to implement, administer, and enforce this section and section 209 of this act, and to carry out its obligations under sections 206 through 208 and 211 of this act;
  - (ii) Determine a total annual fee payment by producers or their third-party representatives that is adequate to cover, but not exceed, the workload identified in (a)(i) of this subsection;
  - (iii) Until rules are adopted under (a)(iv) of this subsection, issue a general order to all entities falling within the definition of producer. The department must equitably determine fee amounts;
  - (iv) By 2027, adopt rules to equitably determine annual fee payments by producers or their third-party representatives. Once such rules are adopted, the general order issued under (a)(iii) of this subsection is no longer effective; and
  - (v) Send notice to producers or their third-party representatives of fee amounts due consistent with either the general order issued under (a)(iii) of this subsection or rules adopted under (a)(iv) of this subsection.
    - (b) The department must:

- (i) Apply any remaining annual payment funds from the current year to the annual payment for the coming year, if the collected annual payment exceeds the department's costs for a given year; and
- (ii) Increase annual payments for the coming year to cover the department's costs, if the collected annual payment was less than the department's costs for a given year.
- 38 (c) By April 1, 2025, and every April 1st thereafter, producers 39 or their third-party representatives must submit a fee payment as 40 determined by the department under (a) of this subsection. Fee

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payments must be deposited in the recycled content account created in RCW 70A.245.110.

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- (4) For producers out of compliance with the registration or reporting requirements of section 209 of this act or the labeling requirements in section 202 of this act, the department shall provide written notification and offer information to producers. For the purposes of this section, written notification serves as notice of the violation. The department must issue at least two notices of violation by certified mail prior to assessing a penalty under subsection (5) of this section.
- 11 (5) A producer in violation of the labeling requirements in 12 section 202 of this act or the registration or reporting requirements 13 in section 209 of this act is subject to a civil penalty for each day 14 of violation in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.
- 15 (6) Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the recycling enhancement account created in RCW 70A.245.100.
- 17 (7) Penalties issued under this section are appealable to the pollution control hearings board established in chapter 43.21B RCW.
- 19 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 211.** ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (1) The advisory 20 committee is established.
- 21 (2) The advisory committee consists of members appointed by the department as follows:
  - (a) Four representatives of local governments representing geographic areas across the state, including two representatives of counties and two representatives of cities, each with one representative of urban communities and one representative of rural communities;
- 28 (b) One representative of tribal or indigenous solid waste 29 services organizations;
- 30 (c) One representative of special purpose districts involved in activities related to the end-of-life management of solid waste;
  - (d) Two representatives of community-based organizations whose mission is to serve the interests of overburdened communities and vulnerable populations;
    - (e) Two representatives of environmental nonprofit organizations;
- (f) One owner or operator of a small business that is not eligible for representation under (g), (h), or (i) of this subsection;

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- 1 (g) Six representatives of the recycling industry, including 2 local governments' service providers, solid waste collection 3 companies or associations, material recovery facilities, or other 4 processing facilities;
- 5 (h) Three representatives of producers of covered products or 6 producer trade associations representing different types of covered 7 products;
  - (i) Two representatives of packaging suppliers that are not producers as defined under this chapter representing different material categories; and
    - (j) One representative of a retail establishment.

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- (3) Advisory committee members must be appointed by the director of the department by January 1, 2025. In appointing members, the department shall:
- (a) Appoint members that, to the greatest extent practicable, represent diversity in race, ethnicity, age, and gender, urban and rural areas, and different regions of the state;
- (b) Consider recommendations for appointments from relevant represented groups or associations and from individuals interested in participating on the advisory committee.
- 21 (4)(a) The terms of initial appointments must be staggered to two 22 and three-year appointments, with subsequent terms of three years. 23 Members are eligible for reappointment.
  - (b) If there is a vacancy for any reason, the department shall make an appointment to become effective immediately for the unexpired term.
    - (5) (a) The advisory committee shall elect one of its members to serve as chair and another to serve as vice chair of the advisory committee, for the terms and with the duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of such offices as the advisory committee determines. The chair and vice chair may not both be members appointed under subsection (2)(a) through (i) of this section.
    - (b) The advisory committee may adopt bylaws and a charter for the operation of its business for the purposes of this chapter.
    - (6) The advisory committee shall meet at least once every three months for the first three years, at times and places specified by the chair. The advisory committee may also meet at other times and places, including virtually, specified by the call of the chair or of

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- 1 a majority of the committee members, as necessary, to carry out the 2 duties of the advisory committee.
- 3 (7)(a) The department shall provide staff support and 4 facilitation as necessary for the advisory committee to carry out its 5 duties.
- 6 (b) The department may select an impartial, third-party 7 facilitator to convene and provide administrative support to the 8 advisory committee.
  - (8) The duties of the advisory committee include the following:
- 10 (a) Advise and make recommendations to the department on the lists developed and published by the department under section 207 of this act;
- 13 (b) Advise and make recommendations to the department on the scope of the statewide needs assessment under section 208 of this act;
- 16 (c) Review and comment on a draft statewide needs assessment 17 prior to their completion;
  - (d) Review and comment on the department's implementation and administration of the registration and reporting requirements in sections 209 and 210 of this act; and
- 21 (e) Provide input, review, and comment on rules proposed by the 22 department under this chapter.
  - (9) Advisory committee members that are representatives of tribes or tribal and indigenous services organizations or community-based and environmental nonprofit organizations must, if requested, be compensated and reimbursed in accordance with RCW 43.03.050, 43.03.060, and 43.03.220.

# 28 **PART 3**

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## ESTABLISHING POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT

## 30 **REQUIREMENTS**

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 301. DE MINIMIS PRODUCERS. (1) For purposes of determining whether a producer is a de minimis producer, the weight and revenue definitional thresholds must be calculated at the level of the entity associated with the covered product.
- (2) The exemptions under this chapter for de minimis producers do not apply to an entity that has agreed to accept responsibility for compliance with the requirements of this chapter for a covered product on the behalf of another producer.

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- 1 (3)(a) De minimis producers are not required to meet annual 2 registration, reporting, postconsumer recycled content, or fee 3 requirements of covered products under this chapter.
  - (b) De minimis producers must annually notify the department, in a form and manner specified by the department, to demonstrate that the producer is a de minimis producer.
  - (4) The department may require that a producer submit information necessary to verify whether a producer qualifies for de minimis status, including:
- 10 (a) Annual global gross revenue dollar amount less than or equal 11 to \$5,000,000;
- 12 (b) Annual total resin weight less than or equal to one ton; and
- 13 (c) Any additional information requested by the department.

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- 302. 14 NEW SECTION. Sec. POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT 15 REQUIREMENTS FOR PLASTIC BEVERAGE CONTAINERS. A producer of a beverage in a plastic beverage container must meet the following 16 17 annual minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage on average for the total quantity of plastic beverage containers, by weight, 18 that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington 19 20 by the producer effective:
- 21 (1) For beverages except wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage 22 containers and dairy milk:
  - (a) January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025: No less than 15 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
  - (b) January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030: No less than 25 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- 27 (c) On and after January 1, 2031: No less than 50 percent 28 postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
- 29 (2) For wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage containers and 30 dairy milk:
- 31 (a) January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2030: No less than 15 32 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
- 33 (b) January 1, 2031, through December 31, 2035: No less than 25 34 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- 35 (c) On and after January 1, 2036: No less than 50 percent 36 postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 303. POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS AND PERSONAL CARE

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- 1 PRODUCTS. A producer of household cleaning products in plastic
- 2 containers or a producer of personal care products in plastic
- 3 containers must meet the following annual minimum postconsumer
- 4 recycled content percentage on average for the total quantity of
- 5 plastic containers, by weight, that are sold, offered for sale, or
- 6 distributed in or into Washington by the producer effective:
- 7 (1) January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027: No less than 15 8 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
- 9 (2) January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2030: No less than 25 10 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- 11 (3) On and after January 1, 2031: No less than 50 percent 12 postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
- 13 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 304.** POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT FOR
- 14 PLASTIC TRASH BAGS. A producer of plastic trash bags must meet the
- 15 following annual minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage on
- 16 average for the total quantity of plastic trash bags, by weight, that
- 17 are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington by
- 18 the producer effective:
- 19 (1) January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024: No less than 10 20 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
- 21 (2) January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026: No less than 15 22 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- 23 (3) On and after January 1, 2027: No less than 20 percent 24 postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 305. POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT FOR
- 26 POLYPROPYLENE TUBS. A producer of polypropylene tubs must meet the
- 27 following annual minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage on
- 28 average for the total quantity of polypropylene tubs, by weight, that
- 29 are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington by
- 30 the producer effective:
- 31 (1) January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2032: No less than 10
- 32 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- 33 (2) On and after January 1, 2033: No less than 30 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
- 35 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 306.** POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT FOR
- 36 SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CUPS. A producer of single-use plastic cups made
- 37 of polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, or polystyrene must

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- meet the following annual minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage on average for the total quantity of single-use plastic cups, by weight, that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington by the producer effective:
  - (1) For polypropylene single-use plastic cups:

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- 6 (a) January 1, 2031, through December 31, 2032: No less than 15 7 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- 8 (b) On and after January 1, 2033: No less than 25 percent 9 postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
- 10 (2) For polyethylene terephthalate and polystyrene single-use 11 plastic cups:
- 12 (a) January 1, 2033, through December 31, 2034: No less than 20 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- 14 (b) On and after January 1, 2035: No less than 30 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
- Sec. 307. POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT FOR 16 NEW SECTION. 17 POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE THERMOFORM PLASTIC CONTAINERS. A producer of a polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic container must 18 19 meet the following annual minimum postconsumer recycled content 20 percentage on average for the total quantity of polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic containers, by weight, that are 21 sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington by the 22 producer effective: 23
  - (1) For packaging for consumable goods:
  - (a) January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2032: No less than 10 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
  - (b) On and after January 1, 2033: No less than 30 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
  - (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, for packaging used for durable goods: On and after January 1, 2033, no less than 30 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
- 32 (b) Packaging designed to accompany a durable good where that 33 durable good model is designed prior to the effective date of the 34 requirement in (a) of this subsection is exempt.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 308. (1) The department must ensure that any rules adopted pursuant to this chapter consider guidelines, and do not conflict with regulations, issued by the United States food and drug administration and the United States department of agriculture,

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and consider requirements imposed by other Washington state agencies including, but not limited to, the department of agriculture.

(2) The department may not impose any requirement including, but 3 not limited to, a postconsumer recycled content requirement, in 4 direct conflict with a federal law or regulation or the requirements 5 6 necessary to comply with a federal law or regulation including, but 7 not limited to: (a) Laws or regulations covering tamper-evident packaging pursuant to 21 C.F.R. Sec. 211.132; (b) laws or regulations 8 covering child-resistant packaging pursuant to 16 C.F.R. Sec. 1700.1, 9 et seq.; (c) regulations, rules, or guidelines issued by the United 10 11 States department of agriculture or the United States food and drug 12 administration related to packaging agricultural commodities; and (d) requirements for microbial contamination, structural integrity, or 13 14 safety of packaging where no viable recyclable or compostable packaging that can meet the requirements exists, pursuant to: (i) The 15 16 federal food, drug, and cosmetic act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 301, et seq.); 17 (ii) 21 U.S.C. Sec. 2101, et seq.; (iii) The federal food and drug administration food safety modernization act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 2201, et 18 19 seq.); (iv) the federal poultry products inspection act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 451, et seq.); (v) the federal meat inspection act (21 U.S.C. 20 21 Sec. 601, et seq.); or (vi) the federal egg products inspection act 22 (21 U.S.C. Sec. 1031, et seq.).

23 PART 4
24 AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED
25 CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

26 **Sec. 401.** RCW 70A.245.010 and 2021 c 313 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) (a) "Beverage" means ((beverages identified in (a) through (f) of this subsection,)) liquid products intended for human or animal consumption, and in a quantity more than or equal to two fluid ounces and less than or equal to one gallon:
- $((\frac{a}{a}))$  <u>(i)</u> Water and flavored water;
- $((\frac{b}{b}))$  (ii) Beer or other malt beverages;
- ((<del>(c)</del>)) <u>(iii)</u> Wine;

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 $((\frac{d}{d}))$  <u>(iv)</u> Distilled spirits;

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- 1 (((+e))) <u>(v)</u> Mineral water, soda water, and similar carbonated 2 soft drinks; ((and
- 3 (f) Any beverage other than those specified in (a) through (e) of 4 this subsection, except)) (vi) Dairy milk; and
  - (vii) Any other beverage identified by the department by rule.
- 6 (b) Beverage does not include infant formula as defined in 21 U.S.C. Sec. 321(z), medical food as defined in 21 U.S.C. Sec. 360ee(b)(3), or fortified oral nutritional supplements used for 9 persons who require supplemental or sole source nutritional needs due 10 to special dietary needs directly related to cancer, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, or other medical conditions as determined by the
- disease, diabetes, or other medical conditions as determined by the department.
- 13 (2) "Beverage manufacturing industry" means an association that 14 represents beverage producers.
  - (3) "Condiment packaging" means packaging used to deliver single-serving condiments to customers. Condiment packaging includes, but is not limited to, single-serving packaging for ketchup, mustard, relish, mayonnaise, hot sauce, coffee creamer, salad dressing, jelly, jam, and soy sauce.
- 20 (4)(a) "Covered product" means an item in one of the following 21 categories subject to minimum postconsumer recycled content 22 requirements:
  - (i) Plastic trash bags;
- 24 (ii) Household cleaning ((and personal care products that use 25 plastic household cleaning and personal care product containers; and
- 26 (iii) Beverages that use plastic beverage containers)) products
  27 that use plastic household cleaning product containers;
- 28 <u>(iii) Personal care products that use personal care product</u>
  29 containers;
  - (iv) Beverages that use plastic beverage containers;
- 31 <u>(v) Plastic tubs;</u>

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- 32 <u>(vi) Thermoform plastic polyethylene terephthalate containers;</u>
  33 <u>and</u>
- 34 <u>(vii) Single-use polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, or</u>
  35 polystyrene cups.
- 36 (b) "Covered product" does not include any type of container or 37 bag for which the state is preempted from regulating content of the 38 container material or bag material under federal law.

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- 1 (5) "Dairy milk" means a beverage that designates milk as the 2 predominant (first) ingredient in the ingredient list on the 3 container's label.
  - (6) "Department" means the department of ecology.
  - (7) "Expanded polystyrene" means blown polystyrene and expanded and extruded foams that are thermoplastic petrochemical materials utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited to, fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, foam molding, and extrusion-blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene).
  - (8) "Food service business" means a business selling or providing food for consumption on or off the premises, and includes full-service restaurants, fast food restaurants, cafes, delicatessens, coffee shops, grocery stores, vending trucks or carts, home delivery services, delivery services provided through an online application, and business or institutional cafeterias.
  - (9) "Food service product" means a product intended for one-time use and used for food or drink offered for sale or use. Food service products include, but are not limited to, containers, plates, bowls, cups, lids, beverage containers, meat trays, deli rounds, utensils, sachets, straws, condiment packaging, clamshells and other hinged or lidded containers, wrap, and portion cups.
- 23 (10) "Household cleaning ((and personal care product" means any of the following:
  - (a) Laundry detergents, softeners, and stain removers;
  - (b) Household cleaning products;
- 27 <del>(c) Liquid soap;</del>

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- 28 (d) Shampoo, conditioner, styling sprays and gels, and other hair 29 care products; or
  - (e) Lotion, moisturizer, facial toner, and other skin care))
    products" means products labeled, marketed, or otherwise indicating
    that the purpose of the product is to clean, freshen, or remove
    unwanted substances, such as dirt, stains, and other impurities from
    objects, interior or exterior structures, vehicles, possessions, and
    environments associated with a household. These items include:
- 36 <u>(a) Liquid soaps, laundry soaps, detergents, softeners, surface</u>
  37 polishes, and stain removers;
- 38 <u>(b) Textile cleaners, carpet and pet cleaners, and treatments; or</u>
- 39 <u>(c) Other products used to clean or freshen areas associated with</u> 40 a household.

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- 1 (11) "Household cleaning and personal care product manufacturing 2 industry" means an association that represents companies that 3 manufacture household cleaning <u>products</u> and personal care products.
  - (12) "Licensee" means a manufacturer of a covered product or entity who licenses a brand and manufactures a covered product under that brand.
  - (13) "Oral nutritional supplement" means a manufactured liquid, powder capable of being reconstituted, or solid product that contains a combination of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, fiber, vitamins, and minerals intended to supplement a portion of a patient's nutrition intake.
  - (14) (a) "Plastic beverage container" means a bottle or other rigid container that is capable of maintaining its shape when empty, comprised solely of one or multiple plastic resins designed to contain a beverage. "Plastic beverage container" includes a container's cap or lid, beginning January 1, 2025;
    - (b) Plastic beverage container does not include:

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- ((<del>(a)</del>)) <u>(i)</u> Refillable beverage containers, such as containers that are sufficiently durable for multiple rotations of their original or similar purpose and are intended to function in a system of reuse;
- $((\frac{b}{b}))$  (ii) Rigid plastic containers or plastic bottles that are or are used for medical devices, medical products that are required to be sterile, nonprescription and prescription drugs, or dietary supplements as defined in RCW 82.08.0293;
  - ((<del>(c)</del>)) <u>(iii)</u> Bladders or pouches that contain wine; or
- $((\frac{d}{d}))$  <u>(iv)</u> Liners, caps, corks, closures, labels, and other items added externally or internally but otherwise separate from the structure of the bottle or container, other than a cap or lids; and
- 30 <u>(c) Other products subject to minimum postconsumer recycled</u>
  31 <u>content requirements</u>.
  - (15)(a) "Plastic household cleaning ((and)) container or personal care product container" means a bottle, jug, or other rigid container ((with a neck or mouth narrower than the base, and)):
- (i) ((A)) With a minimum capacity of eight fluid ounces or its equivalent volume;
- 37 (ii) ((A)) With a maximum capacity of five fluid gallons or its against volume;
  - (iii) That is capable of maintaining its shape when empty;
  - (iv) Comprised solely of one or multiple plastic resins; and

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1 (v) Containing a household cleaning or personal care product.

- (b) "Plastic household cleaning ((and)) product container or personal care product container" does not include:
- (i) Refillable household cleaning ((and)) product containers or personal care product containers, such as containers that are sufficiently durable for multiple rotations of their original or similar purpose and are intended to function in a system of reuse; ((and))
- (ii) Rigid plastic containers or plastic bottles that are medical devices, medical products that are required to be sterile, and nonprescription and prescription drugs, dietary supplements as defined in RCW 82.08.0293, and packaging used for those products; or
- (iii) Other covered products subject to minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements.
  - (16) "Plastic trash bag" means a bag that is made of noncompostable plastic, is at least 0.70 mils thick, and is designed and manufactured for use as a container to hold, store, or transport materials to be discarded or recycled, and includes, but is not limited to, a garbage bag, recycling bag, lawn or leaf bag, can liner bag, kitchen bag, or compactor bag. "Plastic trash bag" does not include any compostable bags meeting the requirements of chapter 70A.455 RCW. "Plastic trash bag" does not include any reusable plastic carryout bag meeting the requirements of RCW 70A.530.020(6)(b).
- 25 (17) "Plastic trash bag manufacturing industry" means an 26 association that represents companies that manufacture plastic trash 27 bags.
  - (18) "Postconsumer recycled content" means the content of a covered product made of recycled materials derived specifically from recycled material generated by households or by commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities in their role as end users of a product that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. "Postconsumer recycled content" includes returns of material from the distribution chain.
  - (19)(a) "Producer" means the following person responsible for compliance with minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements under this chapter for a covered product sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into this state:

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- (i) If the covered product is sold under the manufacturer's own brand or lacks identification of a brand, the producer is the person who manufactures the covered product;
- (ii) If the covered product is manufactured by a person other than the brand owner, the producer is the person who is the licensee of a brand or trademark under which a covered product is sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into this state, whether or not the trademark is registered in this state, unless the manufacturer or brand owner of the covered product has agreed to accept responsibility under this chapter; or
- (iii) If there is no person described in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection over whom the state can constitutionally exercise jurisdiction, the producer is the person who imports or distributes the covered product in or into the state.
  - (b) "Producer" does not include:

- 16 (i) Government agencies, municipalities, or other political subdivisions of the state; or
  - (ii) Registered 501(c)(3) charitable organizations and 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations((; or
  - (iii) De minimis producers that annually sell, offer for sale, distribute, or import in or into the country for sale in Washington:
  - (A) Less than one ton of a single category of plastic beverage containers, plastic household cleaning and personal care containers, or plastic trash bags each year; or
  - (B) A single category of a covered product that in aggregate generates less than \$1,000,000 each year in revenue)).
  - (20)(a) "Retail establishment" means any person, corporation, partnership, business, facility, vendor, organization, or individual that sells or provides merchandise, goods, or materials directly to a customer.
  - (b) "Retail establishment" includes, but is not limited to, food service businesses, grocery stores, department stores, hardware stores, home delivery services, pharmacies, liquor stores, restaurants, catering trucks, convenience stores, or other retail stores or vendors, including temporary stores or vendors at farmers markets, street fairs, and festivals.
- 37 (21)(a) "Utensil" means a product designed to be used by a 38 consumer to facilitate the consumption of food or beverages, 39 including knives, forks, spoons, cocktail picks, chopsticks, splash 40 sticks, and stirrers.

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- 1 (b) "Utensil" does not include plates, bowls, cups, and other 2 products used to contain food or beverages.
- 3 (22) "Brand" means a name, symbol, word, logo, or mark that
  4 identifies a product and attributes the product and its components,
  5 including packaging, to the brand owner of the product as the
  6 producer.
- 7 (23) "De minimis producer" means an entity that annually sells, 8 offers for sale, distributes, or imports:
- 9 <u>(a) In or into the country for sale in Washington state less than</u>
  10 <u>one ton of covered products; or</u>
- 11 (b) A global gross revenue of less than \$5,000,000 for the most 12 recent fiscal year of the organization.
- 13 (24) "Durable good" means a product that provides utility over an extended period of time.
- 15 (25) "Entity" means an individual and any form of business
  16 enterprise. For purposes of calculating the de minimis producer
  17 thresholds under this chapter, a producer entity includes all legal
  18 entities that are affiliated by common ownership of 50 percent or
  19 greater, including parents, subsidiaries, and commonly owned
  20 affiliates.
- 21 (26) "Household" means all of the people who occupy a residential 22 property regardless of their relationship to one another.
- 23 (27) "Personal care product" means a product intended or marketed
  24 for use to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced
  25 into, or otherwise applied to the human body for cleansing,
  26 beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance
  27 including:
- 28 <u>(a) Shampoo, conditioner, styling sprays and gels, and other hair</u> 29 care products;
- 30 <u>(b) Lotion, moisturizer, facial toner, and other skin care</u> 31 <u>products;</u>
  - (c) Liquid soap and other body care products; or

- 33 (d) Other products used to maintain, improve, or enhance personal care or appearance.
- 35 (28) (a) "Polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic container"
  36 means a clear or colored plastic container, such as a clamshell, lid,
  37 tray, egg carton, trifold, or similar rigid, nonbottle packaging,
  38 formed from sheets of extruded polyethylene terephthalate resin and
  39 used to package consumable or durable goods that reach consumers,
  40 including:

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- 1 <u>(i) Branded and prepackaged containers that have been filled with</u>
  2 products and sealed prior to receipt by the retail establishment,
- 3 <u>such as fresh produce, baked goods, nuts, toys, electronics, and</u>
  4 tools;
- 5 <u>(ii) Containers that may be filled at the point-of-sale at a</u> 6 <u>retail establishment;</u>
  - (iii) Unfilled containers that are sold directly;
- 8 <u>(iv) Hinged plastic containers, commonly known as "clamshells" or</u>
  9 <u>"blister packaging";</u>
  - (v) Two-piece unhinged containers;

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- 11 (vi) One-piece containers without lids, such as trays; and
- 12 <u>(vii) Trifold or tent containers with one or more hinges and a</u>
  13 flat bottom.
- 14 <u>(b) "Polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic container"</u> 15 <u>does not include:</u>
  - (i) Household cleaning products or personal care products;
  - (ii) Polypropylene plastic tubs;
- 18 <u>(iii)</u> Refillable containers, such as containers that are
  19 <u>sufficiently durable for multiple rotations of their original or</u>
  20 similar purpose and are intended to function in a system of reuse;
- 21 <u>(iv) A lid or seal of a different material type from plastic;</u>
- 22 <u>(v) A refillable polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic</u> 23 <u>container that ordinarily would be returned to the manufacturer to be</u> 24 refilled and resold;
- 25 <u>(vi) Plastic containers that are or are used for medical devices,</u>
  26 <u>medical products that are required to be sterile, prescription drugs,</u>
  27 <u>or dietary supplements as defined in RCW 82.08.0293;</u>
- 28 <u>(vii) Other covered products subject to minimum postconsumer</u>
  29 recycled content requirements under this chapter; and
- (viii) Polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic containers
  accompanying a durable good when the durable good model, and the
  associated packaging, was designed prior to January 1, 2028.
- 33 (29)(a) "Polypropylene plastic tub" means a wide mouth, rigid 34 container used to package consumable or durable goods that reach 35 consumers, with a maximum capacity of 50 ounces, that is:
  - (i) Capable of maintaining its shape when empty;
- 37 (ii) Comprised solely of polypropylene; and
- 38 <u>(iii) Sealed with tamper-proof film or a detachable lid capable</u> 39 of multiple openings and closures.
  - (b) "Polypropylene plastic tub" does not include:

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- 1 (i) Household cleaning and personal care products;
- 2 (ii) Plastic containers that are or are used for medical devices,
- 3 medical products that are required to be sterile, nonprescription and
- 4 prescription drugs, or dietary supplements as defined in RCW
- 5 82.08.0293;

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- 6 (iii) Polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic containers;
- 7 <u>(iv) Single-use plastic cups made of polypropylene, polyethylene</u> 8 <u>terephthalate, or polystyrene; and</u>
- 9 <u>(v) Other covered products subject to minimum postconsumer</u>
  10 recycled content requirements.
- 11 (30) (a) "Single-use plastic cup" means all beverage cups that are 12 nonsealed or sealed at point-of-sale.
- 13 <u>(b) Single-use plastic cups do not include: (i) Commercially or</u> 14 home compostable cups; (ii) expanded polystyrene cups; (iii)
- 15 composite plastic-lined fiber cups; or (iv) other covered products
- 16 subject to minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements.
- 17 **Sec. 402.** RCW 70A.245.020 and 2021 c 313 s 3 are each amended to 18 read as follows:
- 19 (1) (a) Beginning January 1, 2023, producers that offer for sale, 20 sell, or distribute in or into Washington:
  - (i) Beverages other than wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage containers and dairy milk in plastic beverage containers must meet minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements established under ((subsection (4) of this)) section 302 of this act; and
  - (ii) Plastic trash bags must meet minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements established under ((subsection (6) of this)) section 304 of this act.
  - (b) Beginning January 1, 2025, producers that offer for sale, sell, or distribute in or into Washington household cleaning ((and)) products or personal care products in plastic household cleaning product containers and personal care product containers must meet minimum postconsumer recycled content as required under ((subsection (5) of this)) section 303 of this act.
  - (c) Beginning January 1, 2028, producers that offer for sale, sell, or distribute in or into Washington wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage containers or dairy milk in plastic beverage containers must meet minimum postconsumer recycled content as required under ((subsection (4) of this)) section 302 of this act.

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1 (d) Beginning January 1, 2028, producers that offer for sale,
2 sell, or distribute in or into Washington polypropylene plastic tubs
3 must meet minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements
4 established under section 305 of this act.

- (e) Beginning January 1, 2031, producers that offer for sale, sell, or distribute in or into Washington single-use plastic cups must meet minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements established under section 306 of this act.
  - (f) Beginning January 1, 2028, producers that offer for sale, sell, or distribute in or into Washington polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic containers except those containing durable goods must meet minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements established under section 307 of this act.
  - (g) Beginning January 1, 2033, producers that offer for sale, sell, or distribute in or into Washington durable goods in polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic containers must meet minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements established under section 307 of this act.
  - (2) (a) On or before April 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, a producer that offers for sale, sells, or distributes in or into Washington covered products must register with the department individually or through a third-party representative registering on behalf of a group of producers. A producer of products newly added to the list of covered products under this act must register with the department individually or through a third-party representative registering on behalf of a group of producers on or before April 1, 2024.
  - (b) The registration information submitted to the department under this section must include a list of the producers of covered products and the brand names of the covered products represented in the registration submittal. Beginning ((April 1, 2024, for plastic trash bags and plastic beverage containers other than wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage containers and dairy milk in plastic beverage containers, April 1, 2026, for plastic household and personal care product containers, and April 1, 2029, for wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage containers and dairy milk)) in the year in which an annual report must be submitted by a producer under RCW 70A.245.030, a producer may submit registration information at the same time as the information submitted through the annual reporting ((required under RCW 70A.245.030)).

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- 1 (3)(a) By January 31, 2022, and every January 31st thereafter, 2 the department must:
  - (i) Prepare an annual workload analysis for public comment that identifies the annual costs it expects to incur to implement, administer, and enforce ((this section and RCW 70A.245.030 through 70A.245.060 and 70A.245.090 (1), (2), and (4))) the requirements related to postconsumer recycled content under this chapter, including rule making, in the next fiscal year for each category of covered products;
  - (ii) Determine a total annual fee payment by producers or their third-party representatives for each category of covered products that is adequate to cover, but not exceed, the workload identified in (a) (i) of this subsection;
  - (iii) Until rules are adopted under (a)(iv) of this subsection, issue a general order to all entities falling within the definition of producer. The department must equitably determine fee amounts for an individual producer or third-party representatives within each category of covered product;
  - (iv) By 2024, adopt rules to equitably determine annual fee payments by producers or their third-party representatives within each category of covered product. Once such rules are adopted, the general order issued under (a)(iii) of this subsection is no longer effective; and
  - (v) Send notice to producers or their third-party representatives of fee amounts due consistent with either the general order issued under (a)(iii) of this subsection or rules adopted under (a)(iv) of this subsection.
    - (b) The department must:

- (i) Apply any remaining annual payment funds from the current year to the annual payment for the coming year, if the collected annual payment exceeds the department's costs for a given year; and
- (ii) Increase annual payments for the coming year to cover the department's costs, if the collected annual payment was less than the department's costs for a given year.
- (c) By April 1, 2022, and every April 1st thereafter, producers or their third-party representative must submit a fee payment as determined by the department under (a) of this subsection. Producers of products newly included as covered products by this act must submit a fee payment as determined by the department under (a) of this subsection by April 1, 2025, and each April 1st thereafter.

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(4) ((A producer of a beverage in a plastic beverage container must meet the following annual minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage on average for the total quantity of plastic beverage containers, by weight, that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington by the producer effective:

- (a) For beverages except wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage containers and dairy milk:
- (i) January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025: No less than 15 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
- (ii) January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030: No less than 25 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- (iii) On and after January 1, 2031: No less than 50 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
  - (b) For wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage containers and dairy milk:
  - (i) January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2030: No less than 15 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
  - (ii) January 1, 2031, through December 31, 2035: No less than 25 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
  - (iii) On and after January 1, 2036: No less than 50 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
  - (5) A producer of household cleaning and personal care products in plastic containers must meet the following annual minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage on average for the total quantity of plastic containers, by weight, that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington by the producer effective:
  - (a) January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027: No less than 15 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;
  - (b) January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2030: No less than 25 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
  - (c) On and after January 1, 2031: No less than 50 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
  - (6) A producer of plastic trash bags must meet the following annual minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage on average for the total quantity of plastic trash bags, by weight, that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington by the producer effective:
- 38 (a) January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024: No less than 10 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight;

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- (b) January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026: No less than 15 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight; and
- (c) On and after January 1, 2027: No less than 20 percent postconsumer recycled content plastic by weight.
- (7))(a) ((Beginning January 1, 2024, or when rule making is 5 6 complete, whichever is sooner, the department may, on an annual basis on January 1st, ) By October 31st of each year, the department may 7 review and determine for the following year whether to adjust the 8 minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage required for a type 9 of container or product or category of covered products pursuant to 10 11 ((subsection (4), (5), or (6) of this section)) this chapter. The 12 department's review may be initiated by the department or at the petition of a producer or a covered product manufacturing industry 13 not more than once annually. Petitions for review and adjustment must 14 be made to the department in the annual report submitted under RCW 15 70A.245.030 by June 30th of the year prior to the year in which the 16 17 adjustment would apply. When submitting a petition, producers or a 18 producer manufacturing industry must provide necessary information 19 that will allow the department to make a determination under (b) of this subsection. 20
  - (b) In making a determination pursuant to this subsection, the department must consider, at a minimum, all of the following factors:
  - (i) Changes in market conditions, including supply and demand for postconsumer recycled content plastics, collection rates, and bale availability both domestically and globally;
    - (ii) Recycling rates;

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- (iii) The availability of recycled plastic suitable to meet the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements pursuant to ((subsection (4), (5), or (6) of this section)) this chapter, including the availability of high quality recycled plastic, and food-grade recycled plastic from recycling programs;
  - (iv) The capacity of recycling or processing infrastructure;
- 33 (v) The technical feasibility of achieving the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements in covered products that are regulated under 21 C.F.R., chapter I, subchapter G, 7 U.S.C. Sec. 136, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1471-1477, 49 C.F.R. Sec. 178.33b, 49 C.F.R. Sec. 173, 40 C.F.R. Sec. 152.10, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1261-1278, 49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq., 49 C.F.R. Sec. 178.509, 49 C.F.R. Sec. 179.522, 49 C.F.R. Sec. 178.600-609, and other federal laws; and

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- (vi) The progress made by producers in achieving the <u>postconsumer</u> recycled content goals of this ((section)) chapter.
  - (c) Under (a) of this subsection:

- (i) The department may not adjust the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements above the minimum postconsumer recycled content percentages for the year under review required pursuant to  $((subsection\ (4),\ (5),\ or\ (6)\ of\ this\ section))$  sections 302 through 307 of this act.
- (ii) For plastic household cleaning <u>product containers</u> and personal care product containers, the department may not adjust the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements above the minimum postconsumer recycled content percentages for the year under review required pursuant to ((subsection (5) of this)) section 303 of this act or below a minimum of 10 percent.
- (iii) For plastic trash bags, the department may not adjust the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements above the minimum postconsumer recycled content percentages for the year under review required pursuant to (( $\frac{\text{subsection}}{\text{of this}}$ )) section  $\frac{304 \text{ of this}}{\text{of this}}$ )) section  $\frac{304 \text{ of this}}{\text{of this}}$ )) section  $\frac{304(1) \text{ of this act}}{\text{of this}}$ .
- (d) A producer or the manufacturing industry for a covered product may appeal a decision by the department to adjust postconsumer recycled content percentages under (a) of this subsection or to temporarily exclude covered products from minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements under subsection  $((\frac{8}{1}))$  of this section to the pollution control hearings board within 30 days of the department's determination.

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((<del>(9)</del>)) (6) (a) A producer or group of producers may evaluate the postconsumer recycled content requirements in sections 302 (1) (c) and (2) (c), 303(3), 304(2), 305 (1) and (2), and 306 (1) (b) and (2) (a) of this act and assess the market conditions, postconsumer recycled content availability, and technological feasibility of these requirements, no later than six months prior to the dates identified in those sections. The producer or group of producers may request an extension of these requirements and must present data, from the evaluation performed under this subsection, to the department. The department may grant the extension of the implementation of one or more of these requirements for up to one year.

- (b) The department shall review the extension request from the producer or group of producers within 30 days of the request and approve, partially approve, deny, or request additional information to evaluate the extension request.
- (c) The department may renew an approved extension annually, upon request of a producer or group of producers, and submission of data demonstrating that the conditions justifying the current extension remain in place.
- (d) If an extension is granted, the department may report to the legislature any potential need to revise these requirements, prior to the expiration of a one-year extension period.
- (7) A producer that does not achieve the postconsumer recycled content requirements established under this ((section)) chapter is subject to penalties established in RCW 70A.245.040.
- $((\frac{10}{10}))$  (8)(a) A city, town, county, or municipal corporation may not implement local recycled content requirements for a covered product that is subject to minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements established in this section.
- (b) A city, town, county, or municipal corporation may establish local purchasing requirements that include recycled content standards that exceed the minimum recycled content requirements established by this chapter for plastic household cleaning <u>product containers</u> and personal care product containers or plastic trash bags purchased by a city, town, or municipal corporation, or its contractor.
- $((\frac{11}{11}))$  <u>(9)</u> The department may enter into contracts for the services required to implement this chapter and related duties of the department.
- $((\frac{(12)}{(12)}))$  In-state distributors, wholesalers, and retailers in possession of covered products manufactured before the date that

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- 1 postconsumer recycled content requirements become effective may 2 exhaust their existing stock through sales to the public.
  - Sec. 403. RCW 70A.245.030 and 2021 c 313 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

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- 5 (1) (a) Except as provided in (b) ((and (c))) through (f) of this subsection, beginning ((April 1)) June 30, 2024, each producer of 6 covered products, individually or through a third party representing 7 a group of producers, must provide an annual report to the department 8 9 that includes the amount in pounds of virgin plastic and the amount 10 in pounds of postconsumer recycled content by resin type used for 11 each category of covered products that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into Washington state, including the total 12 postconsumer recycled content resins as a percentage of total weight. 13 The report must be submitted in a format and manner prescribed by the 14 15 department. A ((manufacturer)) producer may submit national data 16 allocated on a per capita basis for Washington to approximate the information required in this subsection if the producer or third-17 18 party representative demonstrates to the department that state level data are not available or feasible to generate. 19
  - (b) The report required in (a) of this subsection must include a certificate of compliance or similar proof of certification conducted by a nationally recognized, independent third party that has achieved ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation, as it existed as of January 1, 2023, or a similar certification identified by the department. The proof of certification must include all of the following:
  - (i) The names, locations, and contact information of all sources of postconsumer recycled content material and suppliers of postconsumer recycled content material;
  - (ii) The quantity and dates of postconsumer recycled content material purchases by the producer; and
    - (iii) How postconsumer recycled content material was obtained.
  - (c) The requirements of (a) of this subsection apply to household cleaning products in plastic containers and personal care products in plastic containers beginning ((April 1)) June 30, 2026.
- 35 ((<del>(c)</del>)) <u>(d)</u> The requirements of (a) of this subsection apply to wine in 187 milliliter plastic beverage containers and dairy milk in plastic beverage containers beginning ((April 1, 2029)) <u>June 30, 2026</u>.

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- 1 ((<del>(d)</del>)) <u>(e) The requirements of (a) of this subsection apply to</u> 2 polypropylene plastic tubs beginning June 30, 2029.
- 3 (f) The requirements of (a) of this subsection apply to 4 polyethylene terephthalate thermoform plastic containers beginning 5 June 30, 2029.
  - (g) The requirements of (a) of this subsection apply to singleuse plastic cups made of polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, or polystyrene beginning June 30, 2030.

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- 9 <u>(h)</u> The department must post the information reported under this subsection on its website, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section.
- 12 (2) A producer that submits information or records to the department under this chapter may request that the information or 13 records be made available only for the confidential use of the 14 15 department, the director, or the appropriate division of the 16 department. The director of the department must give consideration to 17 the request and if this action is not detrimental to the public interest and is otherwise in accordance with the policies and 18 purposes of chapter 43.21A RCW, the director must grant the request 19 for the information to remain confidential as authorized in 20 21 RCW 43.21A.160.
- 22 (3) The department must review and may approve reports submitted 23 under this section. The department must:
  - (a) Make reports submitted under this section, including petitions for exclusions or rate adjustments under this chapter, available for public review and comment for at least 30 days upon the receipt of the annual report by the department;
- 28 <u>(b) Make a determination as to whether or not an annual report</u>
  29 <u>meets the requirements of this section and notify the producer of</u>
  30 the:
  - (i) Determination of approval of the report; or
- (ii) Reasons for not approving the report. The producer must submit a revised report within 60 days after receipt of the letter of disapproval.
- 35 (4) The department must post approved annual reports submitted by
  36 each producer under this section on its website. The department must
  37 also post on its website all resin suppliers meeting postconsumer
  38 recycled content certification requirements.

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**Sec. 404.** RCW 70A.245.040 and 2021 c 313 s 5 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) A producer that does not meet the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements pursuant to ((RCW 70A.245.020)) this chapter is subject to a penalty pursuant to this section. Beginning June 1st of the year following the first year that minimum postconsumer recycled product content requirements apply to a category of covered product, the penalty must be calculated consistent with subsection (2) of this section unless a penalty reduction or corrective action plan has been approved pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.
- (b) A producer that is assessed a penalty pursuant to this section may pay the penalty to the department in one payment, in quarterly installments, or arrange an alternative payment schedule subject to the approval of the department, not to exceed a 12-month payment schedule unless the department determines an extension is needed due to unforeseen circumstances, such as a public health emergency, state of emergency, or natural disaster.
- (2) Beginning ((June)) October 1st of the year following the first year that minimum postconsumer recycled product content requirements apply to a category of covered product, and annually thereafter, the department shall determine the penalty for the previous calendar year based on the postconsumer recycled content requirement of the previous calendar year. The department shall calculate the amount of the penalty based upon the amounts in pounds in the aggregate of virgin plastic, postconsumer recycled content plastic, and any other plastic per category used by the producer to produce covered products sold or offered for sale in or into Washington state, in accordance with the following:
- (a) (i) The annual penalty amount assessed to a producer must equal the product of both of the following: The total pounds of plastic used per category multiplied by the relevant minimum postconsumer recycled plastic target percentage, less the pounds of total plastic multiplied by the percent of postconsumer recycled plastic used; multiplied by 20 cents.
- (ii) Example: [(Total pounds of plastic used x minimum postconsumer recycled plastic target percentage) (Total pounds of plastic used x postconsumer recycled plastic percentage used)] x 20 cents.

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- 1 (b) For the purposes of (a) of this subsection, both of the 2 following apply:
  - (i) The total pounds of plastic used must equal the sum of the amount of virgin plastic, postconsumer recycled content plastic, and any other plastic used by the producer, as reported pursuant to RCW 70A.245.030.
- 7 (ii) If the product calculated pursuant to (a) of this subsection 8 is equal to or less than zero, the department may not assess a 9 penalty.
- 10 (3)(a)(i) The department shall consider granting a reduction of 11 penalties assessed pursuant to this section for the purpose of 12 meeting the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements 13 required pursuant to RCW 70A.245.020.
- (ii) In determining whether to grant the reduction pursuant to (a)(i) of this subsection, the department shall consider, at a minimum, all of the following factors:
  - (A) Anomalous market conditions;

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- (B) Disruption in, or lack of supply of, recycled plastics; and
- (C) Other factors that have prevented a producer from meeting the requirements.
- (b) In lieu of or in addition to assessing a penalty under this section, the department may require a producer to submit a corrective action plan detailing how the producer plans to come into compliance with ((RCW 70A.245.020)) the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements of this chapter.
- (4) For the purposes of determining compliance with the postconsumer recycled content requirements of this chapter, the department may consider the date of manufacture of a covered product or the container of a covered product.
- (5) A producer shall pay the penalty assessed pursuant to this section, as applicable, based on the information reported to the department as required under RCW 70A.245.030 in the form and manner prescribed by the department.
- (6) A producer may appeal the penalty assessed under this section to the pollution control hearings board within 30 days of assessment.
- 36 (7) Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in 37 the recycling enhancement account created in RCW 70A.245.100.
- 38 **Sec. 405.** RCW 70A.245.060 and 2021 c 313 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

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- 1 (1) Beginning January 1, 2023, producers shall label each package 2 containing plastic trash bags sold, offered for sale, or distributed 3 in or into Washington with:
- 4 (a) The name of the producer and the city, state, and country
  5 where the producer is located, which may be designated as the
  6 location of the producer's corporate headquarters and, beginning
  7 January 1, 2025, with the percentage of postconsumer recycled content
  8 that the plastic trash bag contains in accordance with 16 C.F.R. Part
  9 260, as it existed as of the effective date of this section; or
- 10 (b) A uniform resource locator or quick response code to an 11 internet website that contains the information required pursuant to 12 (a) of this subsection.
- 13 (2)(a) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section do not 14 apply to a plastic bag that is designed and manufactured to hold, 15 store, or transport dangerous waste or biomedical waste.
  - (b) For the purposes of this subsection:

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- 17 (i) "Biomedical waste" means any waste defined as that term under 18 RCW 70A.228.010; and
- 19 (ii) "Dangerous waste" means any waste defined as dangerous 20 wastes under RCW 70A.300.010.
- 21 **Sec. 406.** RCW 70A.245.090 and 2021 c 313 s 12 are each amended 22 to read as follows:
  - (1) The department may conduct audits and investigations for the purpose of ensuring compliance with ((RCW 70A.245.020 and 70A.245.040)) the postconsumer recycled content requirements of this chapter based on the information reported under RCW 70A.245.030.
    - (2) The department shall annually publish a list of registered producers of covered products <u>subject to minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements</u> and associated brand names, their compliance status, and other information the department deems appropriate on the department's website.
  - (3) To assist regulated parties with the requirements specified under RCW 70A.245.070 and 70A.245.080, the department:
  - (a) Must prepare and post on its website information regarding the prohibitions on the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene products as specified under RCW 70A.245.070 and restrictions on the provision of optional serviceware under RCW 70A.245.080;
- 38 (b) For education and outreach to help implement RCW 70A.245.070 and 70A.245.080, may develop culturally appropriate and translated

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- 1 educational materials and resources for the state's diverse ethnic
- 2 populations from existing materials used by local jurisdictions and
- 3 other states.
- 4 (4) The department may adopt rules as necessary to administer,
- 5 implement, and enforce this chapter.
- 6 **Sec. 407.** RCW 70A.245.110 and 2021 c 313 s 14 are each amended 7 to read as follows:
- 8 The recycled content account is created in the custody of the 9 state treasurer. All receipts received by the department under RCW
- 70A.245.020 must be deposited in the account. Only the director of the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures
- from the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures
- 13 under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
- ander enapter to to hear, but an appropriation is not required for
- expenditures. Expenditures from the account may be used by the department only for implementing, administering, and enforcing ((the
- 16 requirements of RCW 70A.245.020 through 70A.245.060 and 70A.245.090
- (1), (2), and (4))) the provisions of this chapter related to minimum
- 18 postconsumer recycled content of products.
- 19 **Sec. 408.** RCW 70A.245.120 and 2021 c 313 s 15 are each amended 20 to read as follows:
- 21 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this 22 specific purpose prior to January 1, 2028, the department shall 23 contract with a research university or an independent third-party 24 consultant to study the plastic resin markets for all of the
- 25 following:

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- (a) Analyzing market conditions and opportunities in the state's recycling industry for meeting the minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements for covered products pursuant to ((RCW 70A.245.020 and 70A.245.030)) this chapter; and
- (b) Determining the data needs and tracking opportunities to increase the transparency and support of a more effective, fact-based public understanding of the recycling industry.
- 33 (2) If funding is provided pursuant to subsection (1) of this 34 section and the department undertakes the study, the study must be 35 completed by May 1, 2029.
  - (3) This section expires July 1, 2029.

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1 PART 5

## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

NEW SECTION. Sec. 501. UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE. (1) By December 1, 2024, the utilities and transportation commission, in consultation with counties, cities, and regulated solid waste collection companies, must submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature addressing how to improve processes, including increasing the number of customers served and improving the ease of administration, for providing discounts for low-income solid waste collection company customers.

- (2) The utilities and transportation commission's recommendations may include proposed changes to the provisions of RCW 81.77.195. The commission's recommendations must consider how local governments or nonprofit partners should certify the eligibility of low-income customers for discounts, and the appropriate role of the commission in approving proposed rates, charges, and services and in setting standards for low-income solid waste collection rate discount eligibility.
- **Sec. 502.** RCW 70A.245.100 and 2021 c 313 s 13 are each amended 20 to read as follows:
  - The recycling enhancement account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All penalties collected by the department pursuant to RCW 70A.245.040 ((and)), 70A.245.050, and section 210 of this act must be deposited in the account. Only the director of the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. Expenditures from the account may be used by the department only for providing grants to local governments for the purpose of supporting local solid waste and financial assistance programs.
- **Sec. 503.** RCW 70A.245.110 and 2021 c 313 s 14 are each amended 33 to read as follows:
- The recycled content account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts received by the department under RCW 70A.245.020 and fees paid under section 210 of this act must be deposited in the account. Only the director of the department or the

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- 1 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The
- 2 account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88
- 3 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.
- 4 Expenditures from the account may be used by the department only for
- 5 implementing, administering, and enforcing the requirements of RCW
- 6 70A.245.020 through 70A.245.060 ((and)), 70A.245.090 (1), (2), and
- 7 (4), and sections 209 and 210 of this act.

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- 8 **Sec. 504.** RCW 43.21B.110 and 2023 c 455 s 5, 2023 c 434 s 20, 9 2023 c 344 s 5, and 2023 c 135 s 6 are each reenacted and amended to 10 read as follows:
- 11 (1) The hearings board shall only have jurisdiction to hear and decide appeals from the following decisions of the department, the director, local conservation districts, the air pollution control boards or authorities as established pursuant to chapter 70A.15 RCW, local health departments, the department of natural resources, the department of fish and wildlife, the parks and recreation commission, and authorized public entities described in chapter 79.100 RCW:
- 18 (a) Civil penalties imposed pursuant to RCW 18.104.155, 19 70A.15.3160, 70A.300.090, 70A.20.050, 70A.530.040, 70A.350.070, 20 70A.515.060, 70A.245.040, 70A.245.050, section 210 of this act, 21 70A.245.070, 70A.245.080, 70A.245.130, 70A.245.140, 70A.65.200, 22 70A.455.090, 70A.550.030, 70A.555.110, 70A.560.020, 76.09.170, 23 77.55.440, 78.44.250, 88.46.090, 90.03.600, 90.46.270, 90.48.144, 90.56.310, 90.56.330, and 90.64.102.
- 25 (b) Orders issued pursuant to RCW 18.104.043, 18.104.060, 26 43.27A.190, 70A.15.2520, 70A.15.3010, 70A.300.120, 70A.350.070, 70A.245.020, 70A.65.200, 70A.555.110, 70A.560.020, 86.16.020, 28 88.46.070, 90.14.130, 90.46.250, 90.48.120, and 90.56.330.
  - (c) Except as provided in RCW 90.03.210(2), the issuance, modification, or termination of any permit, certificate, or license by the department or any air authority in the exercise of its jurisdiction, including the issuance or termination of a waste disposal permit, the denial of an application for a waste disposal permit, the modification of the conditions or the terms of a waste disposal permit, or a decision to approve or deny an application for a solid waste permit exemption under RCW 70A.205.260.
- 37 (d) Decisions of local health departments regarding the grant or 38 denial of solid waste permits pursuant to chapter 70A.205 RCW.

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1 (e) Decisions of local health departments regarding the issuance 2 and enforcement of permits to use or dispose of biosolids under RCW 3 70A.226.090.

- (f) Decisions of the department regarding waste-derived fertilizer or micronutrient fertilizer under RCW 15.54.820, and decisions of the department regarding waste-derived soil amendments under RCW 70A.205.145.
- (g) Decisions of local conservation districts related to the denial of approval or denial of certification of a dairy nutrient management plan; conditions contained in a plan; application of any dairy nutrient management practices, standards, methods, and technologies to a particular dairy farm; and failure to adhere to the plan review and approval timelines in RCW 90.64.026.
- (h) Any other decision by the department or an air authority which pursuant to law must be decided as an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW.
- (i) Decisions of the department of natural resources, the department of fish and wildlife, and the department that are reviewable under chapter 76.09 RCW, and the department of natural resources' appeals of county, city, or town objections under RCW 76.09.050(7).
- 22 (j) Forest health hazard orders issued by the commissioner of public lands under RCW 76.06.180.
  - (k) Decisions of the department of fish and wildlife to issue, deny, condition, or modify a hydraulic project approval permit under chapter 77.55 RCW, to issue a stop work order, to issue a notice to comply, to issue a civil penalty, or to issue a notice of intent to disapprove applications.
- 29 (1) Decisions of the department of natural resources that are 30 reviewable under RCW 78.44.270.
  - (m) Decisions of an authorized public entity under RCW 79.100.010 to take temporary possession or custody of a vessel or to contest the amount of reimbursement owed that are reviewable by the hearings board under RCW 79.100.120.
  - (n) Decisions of the department of ecology that are appealable under RCW 70A.245.020 to set recycled minimum postconsumer content for covered products or to temporarily exclude types of covered products in plastic containers from minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements.
    - (o) Orders by the department of ecology under RCW 70A.455.080.

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- 1 (2) The following hearings shall not be conducted by the hearings 2 board:
- 3 (a) Hearings required by law to be conducted by the shorelines 4 hearings board pursuant to chapter 90.58 RCW.
- 5 (b) Hearings conducted by the department pursuant to RCW 70A.15.3010, 70A.15.3070, 70A.15.3080, 70A.15.3090, 70A.15.3100, 70A.15.3110, and 90.44.180.
- 8 (c) Appeals of decisions by the department under RCW 90.03.110 9 and 90.44.220.
- 10 (d) Hearings conducted by the department to adopt, modify, or 11 repeal rules.
- 12 (3) Review of rules and regulations adopted by the hearings board 13 shall be subject to review in accordance with the provisions of the 14 administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.
- 15 **Sec. 505.** RCW 70A.65.260 and 2023 c 475 s 939 are each amended to read as follows:
- 17 (1) The climate commitment account is created in the state 18 treasury. The account must receive moneys distributed to the account 19 from the climate investment account created in RCW 70A.65.250. Moneys 20 in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Projects, 21 activities, and programs eligible for funding from the account must 22 be physically located in Washington state and include, but are not 23 limited to, the following:
- 24 (a) Implementing the working families' tax credit in RCW 25 82.08.0206;

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- (b) Supplementing the growth management planning and environmental review fund established in RCW 36.70A.490 for the purpose of making grants or loans to local governments for the purposes set forth in RCW 43.21C.240, 43.21C.031, 36.70A.500, and 36.70A.600, for costs associated with RCW 36.70A.610, and to cover costs associated with the adoption of optional elements of comprehensive plans consistent with RCW 43.21C.420;
- (c) Programs, activities, or projects that reduce and mitigate impacts from greenhouse gases and copollutants in overburdened communities, including strengthening the air quality monitoring network to measure, track, and better understand air pollution levels and trends and to inform the analysis, monitoring, and pollution reduction measures required in RCW 70A.65.020;

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- 1 (d) Programs, activities, or projects that deploy renewable 2 energy resources, such as solar and wind power, and projects to 3 deploy distributed generation, energy storage, demand-side 4 technologies and strategies, and other grid modernization projects;
- 6 (e) Programs, activities, or projects that increase the energy efficiency or reduce greenhouse gas emissions of industrial facilities including, but not limited to, proposals to implement combined heat and power, district energy, or on-site renewables, such as solar and wind power, to upgrade the energy efficiency of existing equipment, to reduce process emissions, and to switch to less emissions intensive fuel sources;
  - (f) Programs, activities, or projects that achieve energy efficiency or emissions reductions in the agricultural sector including:
    - (i) Fertilizer management;
    - (ii) Soil management;
      - (iii) Bioenergy;
- 18 (iv) Biofuels;

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- 19 (v) Grants, rebates, and other financial incentives for 20 agricultural harvesting equipment, heavy duty trucks, agricultural 21 pump engines, tractors, and other equipment used in agricultural 22 operations;
- (vi) Grants, loans, or any financial incentives to food processors to implement projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
  - (vii) Renewable energy projects;
- 27 (viii) Farmworker housing weatherization programs;
- 28 (ix) Dairy digester research and development;
- 29 (x) Alternative manure management; and
- 30 (xi) Eliqible fund uses under RCW 89.08.615;
- 31 (g) Programs, activities, or projects that increase energy 32 efficiency in new and existing buildings, or that promote low carbon 33 architecture, including use of newly emerging alternative building 34 materials that result in a lower carbon footprint in the built 35 environment over the life cycle of the building and component 36 building materials;
- 37 (h) Programs, activities, or projects that promote the 38 electrification and decarbonization of new and existing buildings, 39 including residential, commercial, and industrial buildings;

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(i) Programs, activities, or projects that improve energy efficiency, including district energy, and investments in market transformation of high efficiency electric appliances and equipment for space and water heating;

- (j) Clean energy transition and assistance programs, activities, or projects that assist affected workers or people with lower incomes during the transition to a clean energy economy, or grow and expand clean manufacturing capacity in communities across Washington state including, but not limited to:
- (i) Programs, activities, or projects that directly improve energy affordability and reduce the energy burden of people with lower incomes, as well as the higher transportation fuel burden of rural residents, such as bill assistance, energy efficiency, and weatherization programs;
- (ii) Community renewable energy projects that allow qualifying participants to own or receive the benefits of those projects at reduced or no cost;
- (iii) Programs, activities, or other worker-support projects for bargaining unit and nonsupervisory fossil fuel workers who are affected by the transition away from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy. Worker support may include, but is not limited to: (A) Full wage replacement, health benefits, and pension contributions for every worker within five years of retirement; (B) full wage replacement, health benefits, and pension contributions for every worker with at least one year of service for each year of service up to five years of service; (C) wage insurance for up to five years for workers reemployed who have more than five years of service; (D) up to two years of retraining costs, including tuition and related costs, based on in-state community and technical college costs; (E) peer counseling services during transition; (F) employment placement services, prioritizing employment in the clean energy sector; and (G) relocation expenses;
- (iv) Direct investment in workforce development, via technical education, community college, institutions of higher education, apprenticeships, and other programs including, but not limited to:
- 36 (A) Initiatives to develop a forest health workforce established 37 under RCW 76.04.521; and
- 38 (B) Initiatives to develop new education programs, emerging 39 fields, or jobs pertaining to the clean energy economy;

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(v) Transportation, municipal service delivery, and technology investments that increase a community's capacity for clean manufacturing, with an emphasis on communities in greatest need of job creation and economic development and potential for commute reduction;

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- (k) (i) Programs, activities, or projects that reduce emissions from landfills and waste-to-energy facilities through diversion of organic materials, methane capture or conversion strategies, installation of gas collection devices and gas control systems, monitoring and reporting of methane emissions, or other means, prioritizing funding needed for any activities by local governments to comply with chapter 70A.540 RCW;
- (ii) The activities of the department under sections 206 through
  account under (k) (i) of this subsection;
- 16 (1) Carbon dioxide removal projects, programs, and activities; 17 and
  - (m) Activities to support efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change affecting Indian tribes, including capital investments in support of the relocation of Indian tribes located in areas at heightened risk due to anticipated sea level rise, flooding, or other disturbances caused by climate change. The legislature intends to dedicate at least \$50,000,000 per biennium from the account for purposes of this subsection.
  - (2) Moneys in the account may not be used for projects or activities that would violate tribal treaty rights or result in significant long-term damage to critical habitat or ecological functions. Investments from this account must result in long-term environmental benefits and increased resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- 31 (3) During the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, the legislature may 32 appropriate moneys from the climate commitment account for activities 33 related to environmental justice, including implementation of chapter 34 314, Laws of 2021.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 506. Sections 201 through 211 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 70A RCW.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 507. Sections 301 through 308 of this act are each added to chapter 70A.245 RCW.

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NEW SECTION. Sec. 508. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other 4 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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