
HOUSE BILL 2336

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Morgan, Dent, Chapman, Kloba, Orcutt, Ormsby, Wylie, Doglio, Fey, Street, Stearns, Riccelli, Gregerson, Mena, Walen, Peterson, Berg, Fosse, Davis, Reed, Duerr, Entenman, Leavitt, Springer, Ryu, Waters, Ortiz-Self, Bronoske, Bateman, Simmons, Berry, Kretz, Schmick, Ramel, Macri, Caldier, Abbarno, Cheney, Goehner, Jacobsen, Klicker, Eslick, Barnard, Walsh, McEntire, Bergquist, Sandlin, Christian, Nance, and Pollet

Read first time 01/12/24. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing the suitability of lands in
2 Washington for agricultural and renewable energy purposes; adding a
3 new section to chapter 43.23 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.23
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The department, in consultation with the state
8 conservation commission, shall perform an assessment of unused and
9 underutilized state-owned lands to determine the suitability of such
10 lands for agricultural purposes.

11 (b) The assessment must be completed no later than June 30, 2025.

12 (c) The department shall submit the results of the assessment to
13 the office of the governor, to the commissioner of public lands, to
14 the director of the Washington State University energy program, to
15 the director of the department of commerce, and to the committees of
16 the legislature with jurisdiction over agricultural matters.

17 (2) For unused and underutilized state lands that the department
18 determines to be suitable for agricultural purposes, the department
19 shall engage in a campaign to promote agricultural production
20 opportunities on such lands. The department's promotional campaign
21 must include outreach, education, and technical assistance. The

1 department shall ensure that the promotional campaign reaches new and
2 emerging agricultural producers, with an emphasis on reaching
3 communities that historically may have lacked access to opportunities
4 as agricultural producers.

5 (3) (a) The department shall assess and evaluate, on an ongoing
6 basis, land utilization in the state for agricultural purposes. The
7 assessment and evaluation must include identification and mapping of
8 agricultural land uses and water resources throughout the state,
9 including data regarding surface water and groundwater resource
10 availability and water quality.

11 (b) The department shall use the data obtained from this
12 assessment and evaluation to support and expand agricultural
13 opportunities throughout the state.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington State University energy
15 program, utilizing data obtained from the department of agriculture
16 pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall perform an assessment of
17 unused and underutilized state lands that are not suitable for
18 agricultural purposes to determine the suitability of such lands for
19 renewable energy production purposes.

20 (2) The assessment must be completed by June 30, 2026.

21 (3) The Washington State University energy program shall submit
22 the results of the assessment to the office of the governor, to the
23 commissioner of public lands, to the director of the departments of
24 commerce and agriculture, and to the committees of the legislature
25 with jurisdiction over energy matters.

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