Washington State
House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Environment & Energy Committee

HB 1249

Brief Description: Creating the commercial liftoff for energy from advanced nuclear advisory commission.

Sponsors: Representatives Barnard, Stearns, Couture, Rude and Keaton.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Commercial Liftoff for Energy from Advanced Nuclear Advisory Commission.

Hearing Date: 1/27/25

Staff: Megan McPhaden (786-7114).

Background:

Nuclear Energy Generation in Washington State.
The Columbia Generating Station is the one operational nuclear power plant in the state, and is operated and owned by a formation of public utility districts and cities as a joint operating agency called Energy Northwest.

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council is responsible for siting all nuclear facilities in the state, and the Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for licensing and registering radioactive material under the authority delegated to the DOH from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Summary of Bill:

The Commercial Liftoff for Energy from Advanced Nuclear Advisory Commission (Nuclear

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

Advisory Commission) is created and consists of 13 voting members with expertise in nuclear energy. The purpose of the Nuclear Advisory Commission is to catalyze more rapid and coordinated action across the value chain for nuclear energy development.

The Nuclear Advisory Commission members are nominated and appointed by the leadership of the entities they represent. The membership consists of representatives from the Washington State University, the University of Washington, Energy Northwest, the Department of Health's Office of Radiation Protection, the Washington Vertical Innovation Cluster, the Department of Commerce's Energy Division, the Governor's Office, the Association of Washington Business, the Washington State Labor Council, and representatives are invited from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the United States Department of Energy, and from a federally recognized tribe. One person is appointed from each entity except for the Washington State University, which has two members on the Nuclear Advisory Commission, one of whom must be from the Institute for Northwest Energy Futures.

The Nuclear Advisory Commission must:

- meet at least five times a year to consider policies and plans to support additional nuclear energy deployment in the state, and considerations must include workforce needs;
- develop recommendations for siting and building additional nuclear facilities in the state, including a detailed roadmap with timelines and targets; and
- submit recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by October 1st every even-numbered year. For the first report due in 2026, the Nuclear Advisory Commission must review and consider the 2024 United State Department of Energy Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Advanced Nuclear report.

The Nuclear Advisory Commission may establish offices, employ and fix compensation for staff, determine the location and intervals for holding meetings, receive reimbursement for travel expenses, and solicit and receive gifts, grants, and endowments for expending according to the Nuclear Advisory Commission's purpose.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 01/21/2025

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.