CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1302

69th Legislature
2026 Regular Session

Passed by the House January 15, 2026
Yeas 76 Nays 21

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 6, 2026
Yeas 47 Nays 1

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1302** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

Secretary of State
State of Washington

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1302

Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By House Environment & Energy (originally sponsored by Representatives Cortes, Barnard, Simmons, Reed, Springer, and Timmons)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/25.

AN ACT Relating to allowing local governments to encourage sustainable technology and resiliency by waiving utility connection charges for organizations utilizing industrial symbiosis; amending RCW 35.92.385 and 35.92.380; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that climate change and environmental degradation poses a significant and increasing threat to human health in Washington. This threat cannot be combatted through reductions in greenhouse gas and other harmful emissions alone. Instead, reductions must be combined with technological innovations in clean energy, resource efficiency, and other environmentally friendly practices.

The legislature finds that industrial symbiosis is one such innovation and practice. Industrial symbiosis is characterized by the beneficial utilization of waste products that may otherwise have deleterious environmental effects. Industrial symbiosis reduces waste, increases efficiency, promotes resiliency, and creates the conditions for further innovation.

The legislature believes that by allowing local governments that operate their own utilities to waive connection charges for organizations practicing industrial symbiosis, Washington can

encourage the development and utilization of this sustainable technology, and that such utilization is important both environmentally and economically.

Sec. 2. RCW 35.92.385 and 2023 c 249 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) Municipal utilities formed under this chapter may waive connection charges for properties owned or developed by, or on the behalf of, a nonprofit organization, public development authority, housing authority, or local agency that provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or affordable housing, including a limited partnership as described in RCW 84.36.560(7)(f)(ii) and a limited liability company as described in RCW 84.36.560(7)(f)(iii).

(b) Municipal utilities formed under this chapter may waive connection charges for properties owned or developed by public or private organizations that utilize the property for industrial symbiosis.

(2) Connection charges waived under this chapter shall be funded using general funds, grant dollars, or other identified revenue stream.

(3) At such time as a property receiving a waiver under subsection (1) of this section is no longer operating under the eligibility requirements under subsection (1) of this section:

(a) The waiver of connection charges required under subsection (1) of this section is no longer required; and

(b) Any connection charges waived under subsection (1) of this section are immediately due and payable to the utility as a condition of continued service.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Affordable housing" has the same meaning as in RCW 36.70A.030.

(b) "Connection charges" means the one-time capital and administrative charges, as authorized in RCW 35.92.025, that are imposed by a utility on a building or facility owner for a new utility service and costs borne or assessed by a utility for the labor, materials, and services necessary to physically connect a designated facility to the respective utility service.

(c) "Emergency shelter" means any facility that has, as its sole purpose, the provision of a temporary shelter for the homeless and

that does not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement.

(d) "Industrial symbiosis" means collaboration among businesses or organizations to exchange materials, energy, water, and byproducts in order to optimize resource use and enhance environmental, economic, and social outcomes for projects that demonstrate measurable reductions in resource consumption or greenhouse gas emissions while supporting sustainable development and long-term community benefits.

(e) "Permanent supportive housing" has the same meaning as in RCW 36.70A.030.

((~~(e)~~)) (f) "Transitional housing" has the same meaning as in RCW 84.36.043.

Sec. 3. RCW 35.92.380 and 2023 c 249 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

Whenever a city or town waives or delays collection of tap-in charges, connection fees, or hookup fees for low-income persons, a class of low-income persons, or a nonprofit organization, public development authority, housing authority, or local agency that provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or affordable housing as defined in RCW 35.92.385, or an organization utilizing the property for industrial symbiosis as defined in RCW 35.92.385 to connect to lines or pipes used by the city or town to provide utility service, the waiver or delay shall be pursuant to a program established by ordinance. As used in this section, the provision of "utility service" includes, but is not limited to, water, sanitary or storm sewer service, electricity, gas, other means of power, and heat.

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