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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6124**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Environment, Energy & Technology (originally sponsored by Senators Lias, Shewmake, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to a study to assess the feasibility of  
2 developing an affordability index for appliances sold into Washington  
3 state; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that household  
6 appliances that have long lifespans and are repairable can save  
7 consumers money associated with replacement costs and can reduce  
8 waste associated with discarding broken appliances. Further,  
9 appliances that are built to conserve energy and water can reduce  
10 consumers' utility bills and help preserve state resources. The  
11 legislature also finds that easy access to credible information  
12 regarding the expected lifespan, efficiency, and reparability of  
13 household appliances will help consumers in Washington state make  
14 more informed purchasing decisions. Further, reliable and accessible  
15 information that enables consumers to choose more affordable and  
16 sustainable models can generate demand for sustainable products which  
17 spurs innovation in the sector, resulting in greater savings and  
18 reducing waste overall.

19 Therefore, the legislature intends to assess the feasibility of  
20 developing an affordability index for appliances sold into Washington  
21 state that would provide consumers with credible and reliable

1 information regarding the expected lifespan, efficiency, and  
2 reparability of household appliances to enable Washingtonians to make  
3 more informed choices and to drive innovation towards more  
4 sustainable appliances.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of commerce must carry  
6 out a study and submit a summary report to the legislature by January  
7 31, 2028, assessing the feasibility of developing an affordability  
8 index for appliances sold into Washington state. The study required  
9 under this section must, at a minimum, consider what criteria an  
10 appliance would be evaluated under in an affordability index,  
11 including, but not limited to:

12 (a) Ease of maintenance and servicing based on physical design  
13 and component accessibility;

14 (b) The availability of repair materials including replacement  
15 parts, service manuals, and the need for special tools or proprietary  
16 software;

17 (c) Estimated performance life with and without recommended  
18 routine maintenance;

19 (d) Estimated annual routine maintenance costs;

20 (e) Resistance to wear and tear;

21 (f) Duration of software support and reliance on software  
22 support;

23 (g) Use of renewable and recycled materials in appliance  
24 construction;

25 (h) End-of-life compostability or recyclability of major  
26 components; and

27 (i) Costs to dispose of or recycle the appliance and its  
28 associated parts.

29 (2) The study must consider the incorporation of efficiency  
30 metrics and tools such as demand-response capability, water  
31 consumption, and in-use and standby energy consumption into the  
32 affordability index.

33 (3) The study must evaluate the following as it relates to the  
34 use of an affordability index:

35 (a) Which appliances would be included in the affordability  
36 index. Appliances do not include consumer electronics such as  
37 smartphones, computers, tablets, gaming consoles, and wearable  
38 devices like smartwatches;

- 1 (b) Feasibility of adapting existing appliance sustainability  
2 labeling standards for use in Washington;
- 3 (c) How the information in the affordability index will be  
4 generated, updated, and verified;
- 5 (d) Who will be responsible for management of the affordability  
6 index as well as estimated one-time and ongoing costs associated with  
7 maintenance of an affordability index;
- 8 (e) How information about the affordability index will be  
9 communicated to customers;
- 10 (f) Recommendations on how consumer feedback regarding appliance  
11 affordability and sustainability can be collected and how it may  
12 inform an affordability index;
- 13 (g) Recommendations to support manufacturer participation in the  
14 affordability index program including consideration of a rebate  
15 program.
- 16 (4) In carrying out the study, the department of commerce or  
17 their designee must solicit input from stakeholders with expertise or  
18 lived experience in the following:
- 19 (a) Right to repair as it relates to appliances;
- 20 (b) Solid waste management;
- 21 (c) Consumer sustainability practices;
- 22 (d) Appliance manufacturing;
- 23 (e) Energy efficiency;
- 24 (f) Consumer protection;
- 25 (g) Appliance standards, including energy star programs;
- 26 (h) Washington state building code standards; and
- 27 (i) Low-income and historically disadvantaged populations.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2029.

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