

HB 1191 - DIGEST

Finds that: (1) Washington industries are world-class leaders in the emerging solar electric industry and the Northwest has an anticipated regional shortfall of four to five hundred megawatts in the electric supply as predicted by the Northwest power planning council. This shortfall is projected to occur, even with the expected development of all available wind energy, conservation, and energy efficiency measures that are available to the region;

(2) Locally sited carbon-free electricity generation offers the best, least costly method of keeping energy generation dollars in our local economies, while reducing the ultimate impacts of electricity usage; and

(3) Residential development of solar electric technologies is proceeding as anticipated by earlier legislation implemented by the department of revenue and the climate and rural energy development center at Washington State University.

Declares an intent to: (1) Help meet the anticipated energy shortfalls in an environmentally responsible manner;

(2) Encourage all businesses, other commercial enterprises, and local governments to invest in locally sited carbon-free generation; and

(3) Provide commercial incentives for the greater use of locally created and installed solar electric technologies, to support, retain, and grow existing local industries, and further, to create new opportunities for carbon-free electric generation technologies.

Requires the department of revenue to reimburse a light and power business from the carbon-free commercial scale energy generation account in an amount equal to investment cost recovery incentive payments made to its commercial customer-generated solar electricity generating customers in certain fiscal years.

Creates the carbon-free commercial scale energy generation account.