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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5485

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senate Environment, Water & Energy (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove and Ranker)

READ FIRST TIME 02/16/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to maximizing the use of our state's natural  
2 resources; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that research has  
5 shown the importance of reducing environmental impacts through building  
6 design. The primary focus on building designs has been an attempt to  
7 reduce energy requirements, primarily heating and cooling, over the  
8 course of a building's lifetime. However, what has been overlooked are  
9 opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other  
10 environmental impacts at earlier stages in the building and  
11 construction design process. The selection of building materials and  
12 products, such as using wood and wood products in the design stage,  
13 provides substantial opportunities to reduce lifetime greenhouse gas  
14 emissions. A key component of life-cycle cost analysis is the energy  
15 expended in the extraction, transportation, manufacturing, and  
16 production of the building materials being considered in the  
17 construction of buildings.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The University of Washington, in  
2 conjunction with a nonprofit consortium involved in research on  
3 renewable industrial materials, in consultation with the state building  
4 code council, shall conduct a review of other states' existing codes,  
5 international standards, and literature on life-cycle assessment,  
6 embodied energy, and embodied carbon in building materials.

7        (2) By July 2012, the University of Washington, in conjunction with  
8 a nonprofit consortium involved in research on renewable industrial  
9 materials, shall make recommendations to the legislature for  
10 methodologies to: (1) Conduct an assessment and determine the amount  
11 of embodied energy and carbon in building materials or greenhouse gas  
12 emissions avoided by using building materials with low-embodied energy  
13 or carbon; and (2) develop a comprehensive guideline using a common and  
14 consistent metric for the embodied energy and carbon in building  
15 materials. The University of Washington, in conjunction with a  
16 nonprofit consortium involved in research on renewable industrial  
17 materials, shall seek input from building materials industries and  
18 other interested parties when developing its recommendations. The  
19 department of general administration shall make recommendations for  
20 streamlining current statutory requirements for life-cycle cost  
21 analysis, energy conservation in design, and high performance of public  
22 buildings.

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