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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5121

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation  
(originally sponsored by Senator Hargrove)

Read first time 02/17/1999.

1            AN ACT Relating to the establishment of a carbon storage program;  
2            creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) Companies that generate carbon dioxide  
5            emissions or manufacture products that emit carbon dioxide are  
6            purchasing carbon credits from landowners and from other companies in  
7            order to provide carbon credits. Companies that are purchasing carbon  
8            credits would benefit from a program to trade and to bank carbon  
9            credits. Washington forests are one of the most effective resources  
10           that can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forests, and other  
11           planted lands and waters, provide "carbon storage." Washington  
12           contains the most productive forests in the world and both public and  
13           private landowners could benefit from a carbon storage trading and  
14           banking program. The state should manage all lands and waters in a  
15           manner to allow marketing of those lands for carbon storage credits  
16           without negatively affecting the long-term production of public and  
17           private lands.

18           (2) The department of community, trade, and economic development,  
19           as lead agency in cooperation with the department of ecology, the

1 department of agriculture, and the department of natural resources,  
2 will evaluate other states' and nations' attempts to establish carbon  
3 credit programs and will develop, by December 1, 2000, recommendations  
4 for the next regular session of the Washington state legislature. The  
5 departments shall review methods and scientific programs that are used  
6 to implement carbon storage programs. The departments will analyze  
7 other programs in the state of Washington, including the conservation  
8 reserve enhancement program, that could facilitate a carbon storage  
9 program and a stable carbon storage market.

10 (3) The department of natural resources and the department of  
11 community, trade, and economic development will jointly review carbon  
12 storage programs and carbon storage requirements world-wide and will  
13 prepare appropriate legislative responses as recommendations to the  
14 next regular session of the legislature by December 1, 2000.

15 (4) An advisory group shall be appointed by the agencies listed in  
16 subsection (2) of this section. The advisory group shall consist of  
17 one representative of the timber industry, one representative of the  
18 agricultural community, one representative of the industrial business  
19 community, one representative of private landowners, and an expert on  
20 carbon sequestration from the University of Washington. The advisory  
21 group shall be consulted by, and offer its advice to, the agencies  
22 listed in subsection (2) of this section on all matters addressed by  
23 this section. The agencies listed in subsection (2) of this section  
24 shall consider and include the input of the advisory group in all of  
25 their activities under this section.

26 (5) This section expires December 31, 2000.

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