
SENATE BILL 6070

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senator Fraser

Read first time 03/02/1999. Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying global climate change; creating new
2 sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is
5 increasing evidence of climate disruption. The potential effects of
6 this change could include extraordinary heat waves, persistent drought-
7 driven forest fires, increases in the frequency and severity of storms
8 and storm damage, and warming of the earth's surface. There is a
9 growing consensus among scientists that human activities are
10 influencing climate. While the probable causes of climate change are
11 occurring on a global scale, it is likely there will be effects
12 specific to the Pacific Northwest region. The potential effects have
13 social, economic, and ecological dimensions and include effects on
14 energy supply and demand, resource economies and industries such as
15 forestry, fishing and agriculture, hydrology and water resources,
16 community infrastructure, emergency services, aquatic ecosystems, human
17 health, recreation opportunities, insurance, transportation, coastal
18 activities, and urban settlements. It is the intent of the legislature
19 to further encourage the development of science that can lead to a more

1 comprehensive understanding of whether climate change is occurring and
2 the potential effects of it. This will allow citizens and public
3 officials to be better prepared to evaluate measures to mitigate the
4 effects of climate change and develop appropriate responses.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The institute for public policy shall
6 conduct a study on the potential effects of global climate change on
7 the Pacific Northwest region and Washington. The study shall include:
8 (a) A review of the scientific information on climate disruption and
9 potential climate change; (b) a review of research findings by the
10 national assessment of the consequences of climate variability and
11 change, Pacific Northwest region; (c) an evaluation of the potential
12 effects on the Pacific Northwest region and Washington of potential
13 climate change scenarios; (d) development and evaluation of potential
14 policy responses to the effects of climate change; and (e)
15 recommendations for action.

16 (2) A committee is established to advise the institute for public
17 policy in the conduct of the study described in subsection (1) of this
18 section. The committee shall consist of: (a) Four members of the
19 house of representatives, two from each major caucus, appointed by the
20 co-speakers of the house of representatives; (b) four members of the
21 senate, two from each major caucus appointed by the president of the
22 senate; (c) four members of the public appointed by the governor; and
23 (d) a representative of the joint institute for the study of the
24 atmosphere and ocean, climate impacts group at the University of
25 Washington.

26 (3) In conducting the study, the institute for public policy shall
27 cooperate with education and government entities in the state that have
28 expertise and understanding related to the effects of climate change on
29 the region and the state. These entities include, but are not limited
30 to, public and private universities, the department of ecology, the
31 department of community, trade, and economic development, the
32 department of agriculture, and the department of natural resources.

33 (4) The institute for public policy shall provide an interim report
34 to the legislature by January 31, 2000, and a final report to the
35 legislature by January 1, 2001.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or
37 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium

1 ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the institute for public
2 policy to conduct the study directed in section 2 of this act.

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