

2 **SHB 2326 - H AMD Adopted 02-16-04 0199**

3 By Representative

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following  
8 findings:

9 (1) A vast and growing body of research and information about  
10 changes to our global, national, and regional climates is being  
11 produced by a variety of sources.

12 (2) Much of this research and information holds important value in  
13 helping scientists, citizens, businesses, and public policymakers  
14 understand how Washington may be affected by these changes.

15 (3) It is in the public interest to support efforts to promote  
16 discussion and understanding of the potential effects of climate change  
17 on Washington's water supply, agriculture, natural resources, coastal  
18 infrastructure, public health, and economy, and to encourage the  
19 formulation of sound recommendations for avoiding, mitigating, and  
20 responding to those effects.

21 (4) The state should support the establishment of a central  
22 clearinghouse to serve as an impartial, unbiased source of credible and  
23 reliable information about climate change for the public.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
25 throughout sections 3 through 5 of this act unless the context clearly  
26 requires otherwise.

27 (1) "Center" means the Washington climate and rural energy  
28 development center.

29 (2) "Clean energy activities" means: (a) Activities related to  
30 renewable resources including electricity generation facilities fueled  
31 by water, wind, solar energy, geothermal energy, landfill gas, or  
32 bioenergy; (b) programs and industries promoting research, development,  
33 or commercialization of fuel cells and qualified alternative energy  
34 resources as defined in RCW 19.29A.090; (c) energy efficiency measures

1 or technologies; and (d) technologies designed to significantly reduce  
2 the use of or emissions from motor vehicle fuels.

3 (3) "Climate change" means a change of climate attributed directly  
4 or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the  
5 global atmosphere.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislature authorizes the establishment  
7 of the Washington climate and rural energy development center in the  
8 Washington State University energy program to serve as a central,  
9 nonregulatory clearinghouse of credible and reliable information  
10 addressing various aspects of climate change and clean energy  
11 activities.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center shall be funded through grants,  
13 and voluntary monetary and in-kind contributions.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The duties of the center may include,  
15 but are not limited to:

16 (a) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data  
17 related to climate change;

18 (b) Collecting and sharing information which could be used on a  
19 voluntary basis to respond to potential climate change impacts should  
20 they occur;

21 (c) Collecting and sharing information about clean energy  
22 activities in the rural areas of the state, including information about  
23 state resources available for developing such clean energy  
24 opportunities;

25 (d) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial  
26 opportunities;

27 (e) Studying and advising the legislature on the potential: (i)  
28 Impacts of climate change in the state; and (ii) effects of early  
29 action by the state, before action by the federal government or other  
30 state governments, on the state's competitive position with respect to  
31 other states;

32 (f) Accomplishing any other duty assigned to it by the legislature  
33 for which adequate funding is provided; and

34 (g) Providing a biennial report to the governor and the appropriate  
35 legislative committees by December 31st regarding its operations.

36 (2) The center shall, within available funds, also:

1 (a) Identify key sectors within the state likely to be affected  
2 adversely by climate change;

3 (b) Examine and report the feasibility of a carbon storage program  
4 for the state by:

5 (i) Evaluating other states' and nations' attempts to establish  
6 carbon credit programs, carbon storage programs, carbon storage  
7 requirements worldwide, and methods and scientific programs that are  
8 used to implement carbon storage programs;

9 (ii) Analyzing other programs in the state of Washington, including  
10 the conservation reserve enhancement program, that could facilitate a  
11 carbon storage program and a stable carbon storage market;

12 (iii) Analyzing methods to encourage and increase appropriate  
13 carbon storage activities; and

14 (iv) Developing and preparing appropriate legislative responses and  
15 recommendations; and

16 (c) Publicize mitigation projects and efforts to address climate  
17 change that include evaluations of whether those efforts were deemed to  
18 be successful.

19 (3) The following agencies and programs will work with the center  
20 to assist with the duties under this section: The department of  
21 community, trade, and economic development, the department of ecology,  
22 the department of transportation, the department of health, the  
23 department of fish and wildlife, the department of agriculture, the  
24 department of natural resources, and the Washington State University  
25 energy program.

26 (4) The legislature may appoint one member from each legislative  
27 caucus to serve on a legislative oversight committee for the center.

28 (5) The center shall establish task forces and technical advisory  
29 committees, balanced in representation and composed of state and local  
30 agencies and interested elected leaders, businesses, labor groups,  
31 timber industry groups, agricultural groups, nonprofit organizations,  
32 university and college programs, and citizens as necessary to assist in  
33 the duties in this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2002.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each  
36 added to chapter 28B.30 RCW."

1 Correct the title.

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