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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2326

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Linville, Romero, Lantz, Rockefeller, Cooper, Hunt, Simpson, Kagi and Ruderman)

Read first time 02/08/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington climate and rural energy  
2 development center; adding new sections to chapter 28B.30 RCW; creating  
3 a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following  
6 findings:

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

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

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

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

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

7 (1) "Center" means the Washington climate and rural energy  
8 development center.

9 (2) "Clean energy activities" means: (a) Activities related to  
10 renewable resources including electricity generation facilities fueled  
11 by water, wind, solar energy, geothermal energy, landfill gas, or  
12 bioenergy; (b) programs and industries promoting research, development,  
13 or commercialization of fuel cells and qualified alternative energy  
14 resources as defined in RCW 19.29A.090; (c) energy efficiency measures  
15 or technologies; and (d) technologies designed to significantly reduce  
16 the use of or emissions from motor vehicle fuels.

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

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislature authorizes the establishment  
21 of the Washington climate and rural energy development center in the  
22 Washington State University energy program to serve as a central,  
23 nonregulatory clearinghouse of credible and reliable information  
24 addressing various aspects of climate change and clean energy  
25 activities.

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

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

30 (a) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data  
31 related to climate change;

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

1 (c) Collecting and sharing information about clean energy  
2 activities in the rural areas of the state, including information about  
3 state resources available for developing such clean energy  
4 opportunities;

5 (d) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial  
6 opportunities;

7 (e) Studying and advising the legislature on the potential: (i)  
8 Impacts of climate change in the state; and (ii) effects of early  
9 action by the state, before action by the federal government or other  
10 state governments, on the state's competitive position with respect to  
11 other states;

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

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

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

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

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

21 (i) Evaluating other states' and nations' attempts to establish  
22 carbon credit programs, carbon storage programs, carbon storage  
23 requirements worldwide, and methods and scientific programs that are  
24 used to implement carbon storage programs;

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

28 (iii) Analyzing methods to encourage and increase appropriate  
29 carbon storage activities; and

30 (iv) Developing and preparing appropriate legislative responses and  
31 recommendations; and

32 (c) Publicize mitigation projects and efforts to address climate  
33 change that include evaluations of whether those efforts were deemed to  
34 be successful.

35 (3) The following agencies and programs will work with the center  
36 to assist with the duties under this section: The department of  
37 community, trade, and economic development, the department of ecology,  
38 the department of transportation, the department of health, the  
39 department of fish and wildlife, the department of agriculture, the

1 department of natural resources, and the Washington State University  
2 energy program.

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

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

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

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

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