
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5674

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Water (originally sponsored by Senators Constantine, Jacobsen, Prentice, Fraser and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to potential climate change; adding a new chapter
2 to Title 70 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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) The recent consensus report of the world's climate research
8 community has concluded that significant climate change arising from
9 pollutants generated by human activity is already underway.

10 (2) The best available analyses by northwest climate experts now
11 indicate a projected doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is
12 now expected to increase the average temperature in Washington state
13 four to seven degrees over the next fifty years.

14 (3) Such changes are likely to have major, adverse impacts on the
15 state's environment and economy.

16 (4) The citizens of Washington state have consistently demonstrated
17 global scientific, technological, and policy leadership.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the Washington climate
4 center.

5 (2) "Center" means the Washington climate center.

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

9 (4) "Emissions" means the release of greenhouse gases.

10 (5) "Emitter" means the entity releasing greenhouse gases.

11 (6) "Greenhouse gases" includes carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and
12 natural gas (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The state legislature authorizes the
14 establishment of an independent, nonprofit organization known as the
15 Washington climate center to serve as a central clearinghouse for all
16 climate change activities in the state.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center shall be funded through grants
18 and voluntary cash and in-kind contributions.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The activities of the center shall be
20 directed by a board of directors appointed by the governor, for terms
21 of four years, beginning July 1, 2001. The board shall include fifteen
22 members as follows:

23 (a) One member from each major party of the senate as recommended
24 by their leadership;

25 (b) One member from each major party of the house of
26 representatives as recommended by their leadership;

27 (c) One member from the office of the commissioner of public lands;

28 (d) One member from the department of community, trade, and
29 economic development, energy policy group;

30 (e) One member from the Washington State University energy program;

31 (f) Three members from the nonprofit, climate sector;

32 (g) Three members from the business sector; and

33 (h) Two members from the climate academic sector, one representing
34 the University of Washington, climate impacts group.

35 (2) The board shall retain and assign staff and volunteers as the
36 board deems necessary.

1 (3) The Washington State University energy program and the
2 University of Washington climate impacts group may provide technical
3 assistance and research for the center.

4 (4) A vote of a majority of the members of the board shall bind the
5 board.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The duties of the center may include,
7 but are not limited to:

8 (a) Determining current and projected emissions of greenhouse gases
9 in the state;

10 (b) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data
11 related to climate change;

12 (c) Assisting and collecting all climate contingency planning in
13 the state;

14 (d) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial
15 opportunities;

16 (e) Studying and recommending avenues for reducing short-term and
17 long-term greenhouse gas emissions in the state;

18 (f) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods for
19 reducing all net greenhouse gas emissions in the state, taking into
20 consideration the absorption of greenhouse gas emissions through carbon
21 sequestration;

22 (g) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods for
23 reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector
24 consistent with federal law;

25 (h) Certifying the extent and degree of any mitigation projects;

26 (i) Developing adequate methods for the monitoring and verification
27 of mitigation projects; and

28 (j) Serving as a central, independent registry available for the
29 trading of emissions credits, if any.

30 (2) The center shall:

31 (a) Develop and publish its rules of operation, calculations, and
32 methods;

33 (b) Accomplish any other duty assigned to it by the legislature for
34 which adequate funding is provided; and

35 (c) Provide an annual report to the governor and legislature by
36 December 31st regarding its operations, including the status of
37 greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

38 (3) 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;

16 (c) Notify and convene meetings of key members of those sectors;

17 (d) Provide relevant scientific and technological information to
18 the public and key sectors;

19 (e) Support a collaborative response to assist those sectors; and

20 (f) Assist in the creation of effective contingency planning for
21 those sectors.

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

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

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) All emitters of greenhouse gases are
35 encouraged to seek mitigation of their emissions.

36 (2) Upon a request, accompanied with adequate funding, the center
37 may:

38 (a) Assist any emitter in selecting mitigation projects;

1 (b) Determine and certify the amount of mitigation accomplished by
2 any mitigation project; and

3 (c) Determine what monitoring and verification standards would be
4 useful in the evaluation of mitigation projects.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The center shall publicize successful
6 mitigation projects and efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse
7 gases.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
10 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
11 July 1, 2001.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act constitute
13 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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