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**SENATE BILL 5674**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Constantine, Jacobsen, Prentice, Fraser and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/30/2001. Referred to Committee on Environment,  
Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to potential climate change; adding a new  
2 chapter to Title 70 RCW; providing an effective date; and  
3 declaring an 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  
9 from pollutants generated by human activity is already underway.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12       (6) "Greenhouse gases" includes all gases identified as of  
13 January 1, 2001, for regulation by the United Nations framework  
14 convention on climate change. They include, but are not limited  
15 to, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane and natural gas (CH<sub>4</sub>), and  
16 nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).

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

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

23       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    (1) The activities of the center shall be  
24 directed by a board of directors appointed by the governor, for  
25 terms of four years, beginning November 1, 2001. The board shall  
26 include eleven members as follows:

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

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

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

33       (d) Two members from the nonprofit, climate sector;

34       (e) Two members from the business sector; and

1 (f) Two members from the climate academic sector.

2 (2) The board shall retain and assign staff and volunteers as  
3 the board deems necessary. A vote of a majority of the members of  
4 the board shall bind the board.

5

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

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

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

16 (e) Studying and recommending avenues for capping the total  
17 amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the state by December 31,  
18 2003;

19 (f) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods  
20 for eliminating all net greenhouse gas emissions in the state by  
21 December 31, 2020;

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

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

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

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

31 (2) The center shall:

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

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

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

1 (3) The center shall, within available funds, also:

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

4 (b) Notify and convene meetings of key members of those  
5 sectors;

6 (c) Provide relevant scientific and technological information  
7 to the public and key sectors;

8 (d) Support a collaborative response to assist those sectors;  
9 and

10 (e) Assist in the creation of effective contingency planning  
11 for those sectors.

12 (4) The following agencies and programs shall work with the  
13 center to establish contingency planning under subsection (3) of  
14 this section: The department of community, trade, and economic  
15 development, the department of ecology, the department of  
16 transportation, and the Washington State University energy  
17 program.

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

20 (2) Upon a request, accompanied with adequate funding, the  
21 center may:

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

23 (b) Determine and certify the amount of mitigation accomplished  
24 by any mitigation project; and

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

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The center shall publicize successful  
28 mitigation projects and efforts to reduce the emission of  
29 greenhouse gases.

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

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

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