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SENATE BILL 6146

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2004 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Morton, Esser, Eide, Winsley, Kohl-Welles, Keiser and Kline

Read first time 01/13/2004.                      Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

1            AN ACT Relating to encouraging renewable energy and energy  
2 efficiency businesses in Washington; amending RCW 28B.20.285 and  
3 28B.20.287; and adding new sections to chapter 28B.20 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7            (1) The legislature finds that Washington state currently derives  
8 many benefits from its renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.  
9 These sectors are an important source of employment and income for a  
10 significant number of Washington residents, currently generating close  
11 to one billion dollars in annual revenue and employing over three  
12 thousand eight hundred people. Equally important, energy efficiency  
13 and renewable energy businesses add to the region's quality of life by  
14 employing technologies that can reduce some of the harmful effects of  
15 the reliance on fossil fuels. Washington state possesses all the  
16 necessary elements to do much more to develop these sectors and to  
17 become a national leader in the research, development, manufacturing,  
18 and marketing of clean energy technologies and services. The state's  
19 work force is highly educated; the state's higher education

1 institutions are supportive of clean energy research and cooperate  
2 closely with the private sector in developing and deploying new energy  
3 technologies; there are numerous enterprises already located in the  
4 state that are engaged in clean energy research and development; and  
5 the state's citizens, utilities, and governmental sectors at all levels  
6 are committed to diversifying the state's energy sources and increasing  
7 energy efficiency.

8 (2) It is therefore declared to be the policy of the state that its  
9 public agencies and institutions of higher learning maximize their  
10 efforts collectively and cooperatively with the private sector to  
11 establish the state as a leader in clean energy research, development,  
12 manufacturing, and marketing. To this end, all state agencies are  
13 directed to employ their existing authorities and responsibilities to:

14 (a) Work with local organizations and energy companies to  
15 facilitate the development and implementation of workable renewable  
16 energy projects;

17 (b) Actively promote policies that support renewable energy  
18 development;

19 (c) Encourage utilities and customer groups to invest in new  
20 renewables; and

21 (d) Assist in the development of stronger markets for renewables.

22 (3) For the purposes of this section and section 2 of this act and  
23 for RCW 28B.20.285 and 28B.20.287, energy efficiency shall include the  
24 application of digital technologies to the generation, delivery, and  
25 use of power.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20 RCW  
27 to read as follows:

28 (1) The Washington technology center and the department of  
29 community, trade, and economic development shall jointly create the  
30 renewable energy business council for the purposes set forth in this  
31 section and to further the policies of state leadership in renewable  
32 energy and energy efficiency technologies set forth in section 1 of  
33 this act. The council shall include individuals from businesses  
34 engaged in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors, members  
35 of the state's higher education institutions associated with assisting  
36 research and technology transfer in these sectors, representatives of  
37 state and local governments, and individuals representing energy

1 consumer organizations. The council may include members serving on the  
2 Washington technology center's board of directors and representatives  
3 of the entities participating in the center's northwest energy  
4 technology collaborative.

5 (2) The purpose of the council shall be to provide a forum for  
6 public and private collaborative initiatives to promote renewable  
7 energy and energy efficiency sectors in Washington state and the  
8 Pacific Northwest. The center and the department shall work with the  
9 council to integrate the council's initiatives into existing state  
10 programs and initiatives, including the grant programs administered by  
11 the center, the department's energy assistance programs, and the  
12 center's northwest energy technology collaborative.

13 (3) The initial principal activity of the council shall be to  
14 develop and implement a strategic plan for public and private sector  
15 collaboration in renewable energy and energy efficiency business  
16 development. The council, together with the center and department,  
17 shall prepare an initial draft of a statewide strategic plan and  
18 circulate it widely among businesses and individuals in these sectors  
19 for review and comment. The council shall also organize a summit of  
20 public and private sector interests to further developments of the  
21 proposed strategic plan. The plan shall address primarily the role  
22 that public sector policies, programs, and expenditures may play in  
23 promoting these economic sectors, including subjects such as work force  
24 development, education, tax incentives, economic development  
25 assistance, public sector energy purchases, public sector construction  
26 standards, transportation, and land use regulation and zoning. The  
27 strategic plan shall include recommendations for legislative and  
28 administrative policy changes and for legislative appropriations. The  
29 plan shall also recommend proposals for capital and operating  
30 investments in public higher education facilities, proposals for  
31 creating and strengthening public and private partnerships, and  
32 proposals for federal financial assistance and expenditures for  
33 research and development programs in Washington state. The finalized  
34 strategic plan shall be provided to the governor and to the appropriate  
35 committees of the senate and house of representatives by January 1,  
36 2005.

37 (4) The center's five-year strategic plan required by RCW

1 28B.20.289(3)(f) that addresses the sectors of renewable energy and  
2 energy efficiency technologies may be incorporated into the strategic  
3 plan required by subsection (3) of this section.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.20.285 and 2003 c 403 s 10 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 A Washington technology center is created to be a collaborative  
7 effort between the state's universities, private industry, and  
8 government. The technology center shall be headquartered at the  
9 University of Washington. The mission of the technology center shall  
10 be to perform and commercialize research on a statewide basis that  
11 benefits the intermediate and long-term economic vitality of the state  
12 of Washington, and to develop and strengthen university-industry  
13 relationships through the conduct of research that is primarily of  
14 interest to Washington-based companies or state economic development  
15 programs. The technology center shall:

16 (1) Perform and/or facilitate research supportive of state science  
17 and technology objectives, particularly as they relate to state  
18 industries;

19 (2) Provide leading edge collaborative research and technology  
20 transfer opportunities primarily to state industries;

21 (3) Provide substantial opportunities for training undergraduate  
22 and graduate students through direct involvement in research and  
23 industry interactions;

24 (4) Emphasize and develop nonstate support of the technology  
25 center's research activities;

26 (5) Administer the investing in innovation grants program;

27 (6) Create the renewable energy business council and assist the  
28 council in the activities required by section 2 of this act; and

29 ~~((+6+))~~ (7) Provide a forum for effective interaction between the  
30 state's technology-based industries and its academic research  
31 institutions through promotion of faculty collaboration with industry,  
32 particularly within the state.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.20.287 and 1992 c 142 s 2 are each amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in

1 this section apply throughout RCW 28B.20.285 and 28B.20.289 through  
2 28B.20.295.

3 (1) "Technology center" means the Washington technology center,  
4 including the affiliated staff, faculty, facilities, and research  
5 centers operated by the technology center.

6 (2) "Board" means the board of directors of the Washington  
7 technology center.

8 (3) "High technology" or "technology" includes but is not limited  
9 to the modernization, miniaturization, integration, and computerization  
10 of electronic, hydraulic, pneumatic, laser, mechanical, robotics,  
11 nuclear, chemical, telecommunication, and other technological  
12 applications to enhance productivity in areas including but not limited  
13 to manufacturing, communications, medicine, bioengineering, renewable  
14 energy and energy efficiency, and commerce.

15 (4) "Council" means the renewable energy business council  
16 authorized by section 2 of this act.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 28B.20 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

19 For the period between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2009, the center  
20 shall allocate no less than twenty-five percent of the funds available  
21 under its research and technology development grants program to  
22 applicants developing technologies in renewable energy or energy  
23 efficiency. The center may waive this allocation for any federal funds  
24 in which such allocation conflicts with conditions of the applicable  
25 federal grant. The center may also waive or reduce this allocation if  
26 the center determines there are insufficient applications to constitute  
27 a viable and competitive pool for projects in this category.

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