

6146-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Morton, Esser, Eide, Winsley, Kohl-Welles, Keiser and Kline)

Brief Description: Encouraging renewable energy and energy efficiency businesses in Washington.

**SB 6146-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Declares it to be the policy of the state that its public agencies and institutions of higher learning maximize their efforts collectively and cooperatively with the private sector to establish the state as a leader in clean energy research, development, manufacturing, and marketing. To this end, all state agencies are directed to employ their existing authorities and responsibilities to: (1) Work with local organizations and energy companies to facilitate the development and implementation of workable renewable energy projects;

(2) Actively promote policies that support renewable energy development;

(3) Encourage utilities and customer groups to invest in new renewables; and

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

Directs the Washington technology center, through its northwest energy technology collaborative, to provide a forum for public and private collaborative initiatives to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors in Washington state and the Pacific Northwest. The center shall seek to integrate the initiatives of the northwest energy technology collaborative into existing state programs and initiatives, including grant programs administered by the center, and energy efficiency business development projects and energy assistance programs of the department of community, trade, and economic development.

Requires the center, through its northwest energy technology collaborative, to develop and implement a strategic plan for public and private collaboration in renewable energy and energy efficiency business development.

Requires the finalized strategic plan to be provided to the governor and to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives by January 1, 2005.