
HOUSE BILL 3194

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Chase and Nixon

Read first time 01/25/2006. Referred to Committee on Technology,
Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing the viability of a solar electric
2 generating facility; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The northwest solar center, a program of
5 Washington State University's energy extension service, shall conduct
6 a feasibility assessment of the economic and technical viability of
7 building a large-scale, public-demonstration, solar electric generating
8 facility.

9 (2) The assessment should include the facility's economic
10 viability, costs and benefits to Washington state, including job
11 creation and environmental impacts, and its impact on the regional
12 energy. The center's assessment should also include an analysis of the
13 impact of this energy choice as compared to other energy generation
14 options.

15 (3) In conducting this assessment, the center shall make the
16 following assumptions about the facility:

17 (a) It will have a minimum capacity in the range of three hundred
18 megawatts;

1 (b) It will be constructed through a design-build contract that
2 requires the recipient to locate a solar thin film manufacturing
3 facility in Washington state;

4 (c) It will be developed by a public joint operating agency;

5 (d) It will be sited in a county with an existing large solar
6 electric generating facility;

7 (e) It will provide maximum production and deliver the power during
8 irrigation and air conditioning peaks;

9 (f) The construction of it will drive the market and result in
10 significant cost reductions;

11 (g) The state will offer incentives to reduce the costs of bonding
12 the project, such as state loan guarantees; and

13 (h) It will be expected to recover the cost of investment over the
14 life of the project.

15 (4) In conducting this assessment, the center must assemble and
16 work with a team of representatives from the department of community,
17 trade, and economic development, the Washington state public utility
18 district association, the Washington rural electric cooperative
19 association, the Bonneville power administration, the northwest power
20 and conservation council, the solar industry, local manufacturers,
21 national laboratories, the United States department of energy's thin
22 films program, and other stakeholders as determined essential by the
23 center.

24 (5) The assessment must be completed and a report summarizing the
25 findings prepared and delivered to the energy and fiscal committees of
26 the legislature by December 15, 2006.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
28 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
29 June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
30 void.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
32 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
33 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
34 immediately.

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