

ESSB 6308 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Ecology & Parks

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) While significant efforts to reduce the
4 rate of climate change are underway in the state and throughout the
5 nation, significant adverse impacts are likely inevitable over the
6 course of the twenty-first century. Therefore it is in the public
7 interest for Washington state to be actively working to both mitigate
8 the effects of climate change as well as to prepare for the impacts
9 that cannot be avoided. While the legislature in chapter 307, Laws of
10 2007, has adopted goals for reducing emissions of climate change gases,
11 and work is underway to establish a comprehensive program to achieve
12 these goals, there is not yet a comprehensive program to coordinate the
13 research and information being compiled on localized impacts of climate
14 change, and to assist local and state entities and the public generally
15 in preparing for and adapting to such impacts.

16 (2) It is the purpose of this chapter to authorize a study that
17 will recommend the elements of such a comprehensive program of climate
18 change research, preparation, and adaptation.

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

21 (1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

22 (2) "Institute" means the joint institute for the study of the
23 atmosphere and ocean, within the University of Washington.

24 (3) "Work groups" means preparation and adaptation working groups
25 created under executive order 07-02 and other participants who may be
26 added under section 4 of this act. All members of work groups must
27 live in the state of Washington.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Not later than November 1, 2008, the
2 department shall prepare a report and deliver it to the governor and
3 the climate-related policy and fiscal committees of the senate and
4 house of representatives. The report must contain the department's
5 recommendations for the creation of a comprehensive climate change
6 research, preparation, and adaptation program.

7 (2) The department shall develop the report required in subsection
8 (1) of this section using the work groups efforts on public health,
9 agriculture, the coast line, forestry, and infrastructure as a
10 foundation, and include recommendations for specific steps to prepare
11 for impacts to water resources and management, flood response,
12 protection of ecosystems, and biodiversity, including the protection of
13 threatened or endangered species and species of economic importance to
14 the state.

15 (3) The report must include recommendations for at least the
16 following:

17 (a) Criteria to establish state-funded research priorities;

18 (b) Methods to ensure data and information systems will be most
19 effective for and accessible to relevant planning jurisdictions and the
20 public generally;

21 (c) Delivering technical and financial assistance to and
22 integrating data and analyses into state and local programs and
23 planning;

24 (d) Funding that may be needed by local, regional, state, and other
25 planning jurisdictions to incorporate climate change into their
26 planning processes, including requirements for such integration when
27 receiving state funding;

28 (e) The range of time horizons and geographic scales to be
29 addressed in climate impact research and analysis;

30 (f) Phasing in implementation of the program in the 2009-2011
31 biennium, including funding and legislation necessary to implement each
32 component of this initial phase; and

33 (g) Any specific projects or pilot projects that the work groups
34 and the institute have identified to ensure the state is adequately
35 prepared for the impacts of climate change and the necessary funding
36 for those projects or pilot projects.

37 (4) In developing the report required under subsection (1) of this
38 section, the department shall, in consultation with the institute, use

1 the comprehensive state climate change assessment prepared under
2 section 404, chapter 348, Laws of 2007, and the reports prepared by the
3 work groups. The department shall make both reports and the report
4 required under subsection (1) of this section available to the public
5 and ensure they are available on the department's web site or otherwise
6 widely disseminated.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In preparing the report required under
8 section 3 of this act, the department shall consider if other private,
9 public, or tribal interests who may be impacted by the recommendations
10 of the report or by the specific impacts of climate change being
11 considered by the work groups are represented and shall invite those
12 interests to participate. The department shall include in its report
13 a list of interests represented in the work groups and which interests
14 were invited but did not participate. In order to allow for broad
15 participation by all areas of the state, the department shall hold as
16 many meetings as possible by teleconference, video conference, or other
17 means that do not require travel. In the event that meetings are held
18 so that interested parties may attend in person, the meetings shall
19 alternate between eastern and western Washington.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The office of Washington state
21 climatologist is created within the University of Washington.

22 (2) The office of Washington state climatologist consists of the
23 director of the office, who is the state climatologist, and appropriate
24 staff and administrative support as necessary to carry out the powers
25 and duties of the office as enumerated in this section.

26 (3) The director of the office must be appointed by the president
27 of the University of Washington.

28 (4) The office of Washington state climatologist has the following
29 powers and duties:

30 (a) To serve as a credible and expert source of climate and weather
31 information for state and local decision makers and agencies working on
32 drought, flooding, climate change, and other related issues;

33 (b) To gather and disseminate, and where practicable archive, in
34 the most cost-effective manner possible, all climate and weather
35 information that is or could be of value to policy and decision makers
36 in the state;

1 (c) To act as the representative of the state in all climatological
2 and meteorological matters, both within and outside of the state, when
3 requested by the legislative or executive branches of the state
4 government;

5 (d) To prepare, publish, and disseminate climate summaries for
6 those individuals, agencies, and organizations whose activities are
7 related to the welfare of the state and are affected by climate and
8 weather;

9 (e) To supply critical information for drought preparedness and
10 emergency response as needed to implement the state's drought
11 contingency response plan maintained by the department under RCW
12 43.83B.410, and to serve as a member of the state's drought water
13 supply and emergency response committees as may be formed in response
14 to a drought event;

15 (f) To conduct and report on studies of climate and weather
16 phenomena of significant socioeconomic importance to the state; and

17 (g) To evaluate the significance of natural and man-made changes in
18 important features of the climate affecting the state, and to report
19 this information to those agencies and organizations in the state who
20 are likely to be affected by these changes. Natural changes include,
21 but are not limited to, estimated annual amounts of greenhouse gases
22 emitted during in-state volcanic and forest fire events.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) Sections 1 through 5 of this act
24 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

25 (2) If chapter --- (Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No.
26 2815), Laws of 2008 becomes law and is codified as a new chapter in
27 Title 70 RCW, sections 1 through 5 of this act shall be codified in the
28 same new chapter in Title 70 RCW."

29 Correct the title.

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