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SENATE BILL 6568

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Senators Delvin, Pridemore, Morton, Hatfield, Honeyford, Hobbs, Tom, Shin, Roach, and Sheldon

Read first time 01/18/08. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

1            AN ACT Relating to nuclear energy; creating a new section; and  
2 providing an expiration date.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1)(a) The joint legislative task force on  
5 nuclear energy is established, with nine members as provided in this  
6 subsection:

7            (i) The majority leader of the senate shall appoint one member from  
8 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate;

9            (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
10 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
11 representatives; and

12            (iii) The governor shall appoint five members, including  
13 representatives from the executive branch and the nuclear industry.

14            (b) The majority leader of the senate and the speaker of the house  
15 of representatives jointly shall appoint the cochairs of the task force  
16 from among the legislative members of the task force. The cochairs  
17 shall convene the initial meeting of the task force. A steering  
18 committee consisting of the legislative members of the task force shall

1 advise the cochairs on the meetings and other activities of the task  
2 force.

3 (2) The task force shall study the feasibility of pursuing  
4 additional nuclear-generated power in Washington including, but not  
5 limited to, the following:

6 (a) An examination of advanced nuclear power reactors including,  
7 but not limited to, generations III and IV nuclear technologies;

8 (b) A review of the advanced nuclear technologies that are in  
9 operation in other countries;

10 (c) An examination of the methods by which spent fuel may be  
11 recycled, converted, or disposed of;

12 (d) A review of the safety issues associated with operating and  
13 maintaining advanced nuclear power reactors;

14 (e) The estimated cost per kilowatt hour of nuclear energy  
15 generated by an advanced nuclear power reactor as compared to other  
16 energy resources, such as wind, solar, hydroelectric, and coal;

17 (f) An examination of the licensing, permitting, or other  
18 regulatory costs associated with constructing an advanced nuclear power  
19 reactor in the state; and

20 (g) A review of potential federal tax incentives that may be  
21 available to support advanced nuclear power reactor projects in the  
22 state.

23 (3) Staff support for the task force will be provided by senate  
24 committee services and the house of representatives office of program  
25 research. The task force may hire additional staff with specific  
26 technical expertise if such expertise is necessary to carry out the  
27 mandates of this study, and only if an appropriation is specifically  
28 provided for this purpose.

29 (4) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for  
30 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
31 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
32 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
33 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

34 (5) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the  
35 senate and house of representatives. Task force expenditures are  
36 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee  
37 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their  
38 successor committees.

1           (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to  
2 the legislature by December 1, 2008.

3           (7) This section expires July 1, 2009.

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