
SENATE BILL 6235

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Haugen, Shin, and Hatfield

Read first time 01/11/10. Referred to Committee on Environment, Water & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to the promotion of the industries that rely on the
2 state's working land base; amending RCW 43.330.310, 43.330.370, and
3 28C.18.170, and 43.01.036; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW;
4 and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that it is in the
7 best interest of the state to support and enhance the critical economic
8 and environmental role that Washington's forest products industry plays
9 in the state. These roles not only provide a wide range of services
10 and goods both to Washingtonians and people around the world, but also
11 are vital to the well-being and lifestyle of the people of the state of
12 Washington.

13 (2) The legislature further finds that the state's forest practices
14 are sustainably managed according to some of the most stringent
15 riparian growing and harvest rules of any state in the nation or in the
16 world, and that the state of Washington has received fifty year
17 assurances from the federal government that the state's forest
18 practices satisfy the requirements of the federal endangered species
19 act for aquatic species. As part of their environmental stewardship,

1 forest landowners in Washington have repaired or removed nearly three
2 thousand fish passage barriers, returned nearly twenty-five hundred
3 miles of forest roads to their natural condition, and opened up nearly
4 fifteen hundred miles of riparian salmonid habitat.

5 (3) The legislature further finds that Washington's forests
6 naturally create habitat for fish and wildlife, clean water, and carbon
7 storage; all environmental benefits that are lost when land is
8 converted out of working forestry into another use. In recognition of
9 forestry's benefits, the international panel on climate change has
10 reported that a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at
11 maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an
12 annual sustained yield of timber, fiber, wood products, or energy from
13 the forest, will generate the largest sustained carbon mitigation
14 benefit.

15 (4) The legislature further finds that the forest products industry
16 is a seventeen billion dollar industry, making it Washington's second
17 largest manufacturing industry. The forest products industry alone
18 provides nearly forty-five thousand direct green jobs and one hundred
19 sixty-two thousand indirect jobs, many located in rural areas.

20 (5) The legislature further finds that working forests help
21 generate wealth through recreation and tourism, the creation of green
22 jobs, and through the production of wood products and energy; a finding
23 supported by the United States secretary of agriculture.

24 (6) The legislature further finds that for these reasons, and more,
25 jobs connected to the forest products industry should be endorsed by
26 the state and federal government as green jobs, or jobs that benefit
27 the local economy in an environmentally sustainable and beneficial
28 manner, and the forest products industry should be endorsed as a green
29 industry.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) The department shall consider during the implementing of this
33 chapter, and other state agencies shall consider when relevant, the
34 forest products industry to be a green industry and included in any
35 category of industries identified by their positive contributions to
36 the state's environmental protection, ecological enhancement, clean
37 energy future, or carbon reduction strategies.

1 (2) The term "forest products industry" must be given a broad
2 interpretation when implementing this section and include, at a
3 minimum, businesses that grow, manage, harvest, transport, and process,
4 forest, wood, and paper products.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.330.310 and 2008 c 14 s 9 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The legislature establishes a comprehensive green economy jobs
8 growth initiative based on the goal of, by 2020, increasing the number
9 of green economy jobs to twenty-five thousand from the eight thousand
10 four hundred green economy jobs the state had in 2004.

11 (2) The department, in consultation with the employment security
12 department, the state workforce training and education coordinating
13 board, the state board (~~(of—[for])~~) for community and technical
14 colleges, and the higher education coordinating board, and consistent
15 with section 2 of this act, shall develop a defined list of terms,
16 consistent with current workforce and economic development terms,
17 associated with green economy industries and jobs.

18 (3)(a) The employment security department, in consultation with the
19 department, the state workforce training and education coordinating
20 board, the state board for community and technical colleges, the higher
21 education coordinating board, Washington State University small
22 business development center, and the Washington State University
23 extension energy program, shall, consistent with section 2 of this act,
24 conduct labor market research to analyze the current labor market and
25 projected job growth in the green economy, the current and projected
26 recruitment and skill requirement of green economy industry employers,
27 the wage and benefits ranges of jobs within green economy industries,
28 and the education and training requirements of entry-level and
29 incumbent workers in those industries.

30 (b) The University of Washington business and economic development
31 center shall: Analyze the current opportunities for and participation
32 in the green economy by minority and women-owned business enterprises
33 in Washington; identify existing barriers to their successful
34 participation in the green economy; and develop strategies with
35 specific policy recommendations to improve their successful
36 participation in the green economy. The research may be informed by
37 the research of the Puget Sound regional council prosperity

1 partnership, as well as other entities. The University of Washington
2 business and economic development center shall report to the
3 appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate
4 on their research, analysis, and recommendations by December 1, 2008.

5 (4) Based on the findings from subsection (3) of this section, the
6 employment security department, in consultation with the department and
7 taking into account the requirements and goals of chapter 14, Laws of
8 2008, section 2 of this act, and other state clean energy and energy
9 efficiency policies, shall propose which industries will be considered
10 high-demand green industries, based on current and projected job
11 creation and their strategic importance to the development of the
12 state's green economy. The employment security department and the
13 department shall take into account which jobs within green economy
14 industries will be considered high-wage occupations and occupations
15 that are part of career pathways to the same, based on family-
16 sustaining wage and benefits ranges. These designations, and the
17 results of the employment security department's broader labor market
18 research, shall inform the planning and strategic direction of the
19 department, the state workforce training and education coordinating
20 board, the state board for community and technical colleges, and the
21 higher education coordinating board.

22 (5) The department shall identify emerging technologies and
23 innovations that are likely to contribute to advancements in the green
24 economy, including the activities in designated innovation partnership
25 zones established in RCW 43.330.270.

26 (6) The department, consistent with the priorities established by
27 the state economic development commission, shall:

28 (a) Develop targeting criteria for existing investments, and make
29 recommendations for new or expanded financial incentives and
30 comprehensive strategies, to recruit, retain, and expand green economy
31 industries and small businesses; and

32 (b) Make recommendations for new or expanded financial incentives
33 and comprehensive strategies to stimulate research and development of
34 green technology and innovation, including designating innovation
35 partnership zones linked to the green economy.

36 (7) For the purposes of this section, "target populations" means
37 (a) entry-level or incumbent workers in high-demand green industries
38 who are in, or are preparing for, high-wage occupations; (b) dislocated

1 workers in declining industries who may be retrained for high-wage
2 occupations in high-demand green industries; (c) dislocated
3 agriculture, timber, or energy sector workers who may be retrained for
4 high-wage occupations in high-demand green industries; (d) eligible
5 veterans or national guard members; (e) disadvantaged populations; or
6 (f) anyone eligible to participate in the state opportunity grant
7 program under RCW 28B.50.271.

8 (8) The legislature directs the state workforce training and
9 education coordinating board to create and pilot green industry skill
10 panels. These panels shall consist of business representatives from:
11 Industry sectors related to clean energy, including energy derived from
12 wood biomass, liquid biofuels, or bio-based products; labor unions
13 representing workers in those industries or labor affiliates
14 administering state-approved, joint apprenticeship programs or labor-
15 management partnership programs that train workers for these
16 industries((~~τ~~))i state and local veterans agencies((~~τ~~))i employer
17 associations((~~τ~~))i educational institutions((~~τ~~and))i local workforce
18 development councils within the region that the panels propose to
19 operate((~~τ~~))i and other key stakeholders as determined by the
20 applicant. Any of these stakeholder organizations are eligible to
21 receive grants under this section and serve as the intermediary that
22 convenes and leads the panel. Panel applicants must provide labor
23 market and industry analysis that demonstrates high demand, or demand
24 of strategic importance to the development of the state's clean energy
25 economy as identified in this section, for high-wage occupations, or
26 occupations that are part of career pathways to the same, within the
27 relevant industry sector. The panel shall:

28 (a) Conduct labor market and industry analyses, in consultation
29 with the employment security department, and drawing on the findings of
30 its research when available;

31 (b) Plan strategies to meet the recruitment and training needs of
32 the industry and small businesses; and

33 (c) Leverage and align other public and private funding sources.

34 (9) The green industries jobs training account is created in the
35 state treasury. Moneys from the account must be utilized to supplement
36 the state opportunity grant program established under RCW 28B.50.271.
37 All receipts from appropriations directed to the account must be
38 deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used

1 only for the activities identified in this subsection. The state board
2 for community and technical colleges, in consultation with the state
3 workforce training and education coordinating board, informed by the
4 research of the employment security department and the strategies
5 developed in this section, may authorize expenditures from the account.
6 The state board for community and technical colleges must distribute
7 grants from the account on a competitive basis.

8 (a)(i) Allowable uses of these grant funds, which should be used
9 when other public or private funds are insufficient or unavailable, may
10 include:

11 (A) Curriculum development;

12 (B) Transitional jobs strategies for dislocated workers in
13 declining industries who may be retrained for high-wage occupations in
14 green industries;

15 (C) Workforce education to target populations; and

16 (D) Adult basic and remedial education as necessary linked to
17 occupation skills training.

18 (ii) Allowable uses of these grant funds do not include student
19 assistance and support services available through the state opportunity
20 grant program under RCW 28B.50.271.

21 (b) Applicants eligible to receive these grants may be any
22 organization or a partnership of organizations that has demonstrated
23 expertise in:

24 (i) Implementing effective education and training programs that
25 meet industry demand; and

26 (ii) Recruiting and supporting, to successful completion of those
27 training programs carried out under these grants, the target
28 populations of workers.

29 (c) In awarding grants from the green industries jobs training
30 account, the state board for community and technical colleges shall
31 give priority to applicants that demonstrate the ability to:

32 (i) Use labor market and industry analysis developed by the
33 employment security department and green industry skill panels in the
34 design and delivery of the relevant education and training program, and
35 otherwise utilize strategies developed by green industry (~~skills~~
36 ~~{skill}~~) skill panels;

37 (ii) Leverage and align existing public programs and resources and

1 private resources toward the goal of recruiting, supporting, educating,
2 and training target populations of workers;

3 (iii) Work collaboratively with other relevant stakeholders in the
4 regional economy;

5 (iv) Link adult basic and remedial education, where necessary, with
6 occupation skills training;

7 (v) Involve employers and, where applicable, labor unions in the
8 determination of relevant skills and competencies and, where relevant,
9 the validation of career pathways; and

10 (vi) Ensure that supportive services, where necessary, are
11 integrated with education and training and are delivered by
12 organizations with direct access to and experience with the targeted
13 population of workers.

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.330.370 and 2009 c 536 s 2 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 The Washington state evergreen jobs initiative is established as a
17 comprehensive green economy jobs growth initiative with the goals of:

18 (1) Creating fifteen thousand new green economy jobs by 2020, with
19 a target of thirty percent of those jobs going to veterans, members of
20 the national guard, and low-income and disadvantaged populations;

21 (2) Capturing and deploying federal funds in a focused, effective,
22 and coordinated manner;

23 (3) Preparing the state's workforce to take full advantage of green
24 economy job opportunities and to meet the recruitment and training
25 needs of industry and small businesses;

26 (4) Attracting private sector investment that will create new and
27 expand existing jobs, with an emphasis on services and products that
28 have a high economic or environmental impact and can be exported
29 domestically and internationally;

30 (5) Making Washington state a net exporter of green industry
31 products and services, with special attention to renewable energy
32 technology and components;

33 (6) Empowering local agencies and organizations to recruit green
34 economy businesses and jobs into the state by providing state support
35 and assistance;

36 (7) Capitalizing on existing partnership agreements in the
37 Washington works plan and the Washington workforce compact; and

1 (8) Operating in concert with section 2 of this act and the
2 fourteen guiding principles identified by the department in its
3 Washington state's green economy strategic framework.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28C.18.170 and 2009 c 536 s 8 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislature directs the board to create and pilot green
7 industry skill panels. These panels shall consist of business
8 representatives from industry sectors related to clean energy, labor
9 unions representing workers in those industries or labor affiliates
10 administering state-approved, joint apprenticeship programs or labor-
11 management partnership programs that train workers for these
12 industries, state and local veterans agencies, employer associations,
13 educational institutions, and local workforce development councils
14 within the region that the panels propose to operate, and other key
15 stakeholders as determined by the applicant. Any of these stakeholder
16 organizations are eligible to receive grants under this section and
17 serve as the intermediary that convenes and leads the panel. Panel
18 applicants must provide labor market and industry analysis that
19 demonstrates high demand, or demand of strategic importance to the
20 development of the state's clean energy economy as identified in this
21 section, for middle or high-wage occupations, or occupations that are
22 part of career pathways to the same, within the relevant industry
23 sector. The panel shall(~~(, in consultation with the department and the~~
24 ~~leadership team))~~):

25 (a) Conduct labor market and industry analyses, in consultation
26 with the employment security department, and drawing on the findings of
27 its research when available;

28 (b) Recommend strategies to meet the recruitment and training needs
29 of the industry and small businesses; and

30 (c) Recommend strategies to leverage and align other public and
31 private funding sources.

32 (2) The board may prioritize workforce training programs that lead
33 to a credential, certificate, or degree in green economy jobs. For
34 purposes of this section, green economy jobs include those in the
35 primary industries of a green economy, including clean energy, high-
36 efficiency building, green transportation, and environmental
37 protection. Prioritization efforts may include but are not limited to:

1 (a) Prioritization of the use of high employer-demand funding for
2 workforce training programs in green economy jobs; (b) increased
3 outreach efforts to public utilities, education, labor, government, and
4 private industry to develop tailored, green job training programs; and
5 (c) increased outreach efforts to target populations. Outreach efforts
6 may be conducted in partnership with local workforce development
7 councils.

8 (3) The definitions in RCW 43.330.010, and the requirements of
9 section 2 of this act, apply to this section.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.01.036 and 2009 c 518 s 24 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1)(a)(i) All reports required to be submitted to the legislature
13 shall be provided only in an electronic format. Reports must be
14 submitted electronically to the chief clerk of the house of
15 representatives and the secretary of the senate. The chief clerk of
16 the house of representatives and the secretary of the senate shall
17 provide an online site for reports submitted to the legislature on the
18 legislative internet home page. The reports shall be organized in such
19 a way as to make the reports easy to find and accessible by
20 legislators, staff, and the public.

21 (~~(b)~~) (ii) Upon electronic submittal of the required report to
22 the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the secretary of
23 the senate, the agency shall send a letter, also by electronic means,
24 to the appropriate legislative committee that the report has been
25 filed. The letter may include a brief summary of the report. The
26 public entity submitting the report may make hard copies available by
27 request.

28 (~~(2)(a)~~) (b)(i) All annual and biennial reports to the governor
29 shall be provided only in an electronic format. The reports shall be
30 organized in such a way as to make the reports easy to find and
31 accessible by the public.

32 (~~(b)~~) (ii) Upon electronic submittal of the required report to
33 the governor's office, the agency shall send a letter, also by
34 electronic means, that the report has been filed. The letter may
35 include a brief summary of the report. The entity submitting the
36 report may make hard copies available by request.

1 (2)(a) All agency environmental or economic analyses and studies
2 that result in a written report or other formal publication of findings
3 must, when relevant and not specifically exempted by the authority
4 requiring the analyses, consider the forest products industry to be a
5 green industry and included in any category of industries identified by
6 their positive contributions to the state's environmental protection,
7 ecological enhancement, clean energy future, or carbon reduction
8 strategies.

9 (b) If an agency conducts relevant analyses or studies that exclude
10 the forest products industry from an industrial category identified in
11 this subsection, then any resulting report or other publication must
12 include a section explaining the rationale for excluding the forest
13 products industry from the agency categorization.

14 (c) Agencies shall give broad interpretation to the term "forest
15 products industry" when implementing this subsection and include, at a
16 minimum, businesses that grow, manage, harvest, transport, and process
17 forest, wood, and paper products.

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