

SB 5138 - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Recognizes that climate change poses a significant threat to Washington's economy, the health and welfare of its population, and its natural resources. Washington's water supply and natural resources are particularly vulnerable to temperature changes and shifts in precipitation patterns and could suffer devastating consequences if adaptive measures are not taken.

Declares it is in the public interest for the state to address the effects of climate change and to be able to plan for future climate change impacts.

Creates an integrated climate change response strategy with prioritized and coordinated climate change preparation and adaptation actions that state and local agencies, public and private businesses, tribes, and individuals can use to plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change through a collaborative process of on-going research, analysis, collection, and distribution of data and information.

Requires the department of ecology to assemble a climate change impacts coordinating team to gather, assess, and distribute relevant science and information on climate change and to assist state agencies, local governments, tribes, public and private businesses, organizations, and the citizens of Washington with climate change preparation and adaptation actions. The team may seek assistance from a science advisory group and the office of Washington state climatologist, and may designate other technical advisory groups that the team feels are necessary to assist it with developing the strategy and actions.

Directs the science advisory group to provide independent, nonrepresentational scientific advice to the team.

Creates the office of Washington state climatologist within the University of Washington.