

SB 5735-S2.E - DIGEST

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 3/11/2009)

Requires the state to adhere to certain policies when presenting its position on any regional or national emissions reduction program that relies on a multisector, market-based approach to regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

Requires the department of ecology to: (1) Recommend a greenhouse gas emissions reduction program that sets statewide and sector emission caps for persons that annually emit at or above twenty-five thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents;

(2) Report to the legislature on alternative strategies the state may implement to meet the requirements in RCW 70.235.020 (greenhouse gas emissions reductions--reporting requirements);

(3) Recommend criteria for issuing and accepting offset credits for offset projects that may be used to meet a person's compliance obligation in a state, regional, or national emissions reduction program;

(4) Present the state's policy on forestry offset projects established under section 6 of the act as the state's position when developing the criteria for forestry offset projects within any other regional or national cap and trade emissions reduction program; and

(5) In consultation with the forest practices board, the department of natural resources, and the forest carbon working group, develop the state's policy for forestry offset projects within Washington and develop and deliver to the legislature by December 1, 2010, legislation to implement a financial incentives program for forestry and forest products.

Authorizes the director of the department of ecology to continue discussions with other jurisdictions in the western climate initiative.

Requires the governor to direct the department of ecology, in collaboration with the states of Oregon and California, to develop a multistate electric vehicle infrastructure initiative.

Requires certain regional transportation planning organizations, in collaboration with representatives from the departments of ecology, transportation, and community, trade, and economic development, local governments, and the office of regulatory affairs, to seek federal or private funding for the planning for, deployment of, or regulations concerning electric vehicle infrastructure.

Creates the emissions reduction assistance account.

Provides that the act shall be in effect only to the extent that funds are specifically appropriated for the purposes of the act.