

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1003

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Environment, Water & Energy, March 16, 2011

Title: An act relating to efficiency standards for consumer products.

Brief Description: Establishing energy efficiency standards for consumer products.

Sponsors: House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Stanford, Frockt, Moeller and Upthegrove).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/26/11, 56-41.

Committee Activity: Environment, Water & Energy: 3/08/11, 3/16/11 [DP, DNP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, WATER & ENERGY

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Rockefeller, Chair; Nelson, Vice Chair; Chase, Fraser and Ranker.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Honeyford, Ranking Minority Member; Delvin, Holmquist Newbry and Morton.

Staff: Sam Thompson (786-7413)

Background: States may establish minimum energy efficiency standards for electrical products if state regulation is not preempted by federal law. Washington law sets minimum efficiency standards for nine categories of electrical products sold, offered for sale, or installed in the state:

- automatic commercial ice cube machines;
- certain wine chillers;
- commercial hot food holding cabinets;
- commercial refrigerators and freezers;
- tub spout diverters;
- certain incandescent reflector lights;
- pool heaters, residential pool pumps, and portable electrical spas;
- hot water dispensers and mini-tank electric water heaters; and
- bottle-type and point-of-use water dispensers.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

California has adopted efficiency standards for several other products, including compact audio products, digital versatile disc (DVD) players, DVD recorders, and certain external power supplies that are not federally-regulated.

Summary of Bill: Minimum energy efficiency standards are established for the following electrical products manufactured on or after January 1, 2012, that are sold or offered for sale in the state:

- compact audio products;
- DVD players and DVD recorders; and
- state-regulated external power supplies, defined to exclude devices that are federally-regulated.

These products may not be installed for compensation in the state on or after January 1, 2013, unless they meet the specified efficiency standards.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: By setting energy efficiency standards for additional products, this bill helps to limit load growth, which will help keep consumer utility rates down. Energy efficiency, lowering energy use, is the cleanest, cheapest way to meet demand for new energy, and efficiency standards like those set in this bill are the most cost-effective way to achieve energy efficiency. The average American home includes 5-10 external power supplies; a billion are shipped each year. Standards in this bill will save an average of 2.7 megawatts per year, equivalent to the energy use by 2100 homes, and will save consumers several million dollars in the next ten years. The bill promotes energy conservation goals.

OTHER: Retailers are uncertain regarding external power supplies that may be subject to regulation under this bill.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Morris, prime sponsor; Kim Drury, NW Energy Coalition; Peter Thein, Sierra Club, Cascade Chapter; Kathleen Collins, PacifiCorp.

OTHER: Mark Johnson, Washington Retail Association.