
HOUSE BILL 2120

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 1st Special Session

By Representatives Klippert, Blake, Haler, Takko, Shea, Rivers,
Nealey, and Overstreet

Read first time 05/20/11. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to an analysis of hydroelectric generation and the
2 energy independence act; creating a new section; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The utilities and transportation
6 commission and the department of commerce must jointly select a
7 consultant located within the state of Washington with experience in
8 economic and policy analysis to conduct an analysis of the energy
9 independence act, chapter 19.285 RCW, and the treatment of
10 hydroelectric power as an eligible renewable resource. Specifically,
11 the analysis must review the following elements and recommend changes
12 to the energy independence act that will stabilize energy costs for
13 consumers and businesses including:

14 (a) The variability of water flow on an annual and seasonal basis
15 through hydroelectric dams and its impact on the market price of power;

16 (b) The amount of hydroelectric generation that has been curtailed
17 to accommodate generation from other sources and from available data,
18 a forecast of future curtailment of hydroelectric generation to meet
19 the requirements of the energy independence act;

1 (c) The amount of capacity in the hydroelectric generation system
2 that can serve as firming power for intermittent renewable resources
3 and the real opportunity cost of curtailing hydroelectric generation in
4 favor of other generation sources;

5 (d) The average price per megawatt hour of hydroelectric power
6 generated within the state of Washington compared to new wind and solar
7 power and, as data is available, other renewable resources as that term
8 is defined in RCW 19.285.030;

9 (e) The estimated cost of new infrastructure necessary to integrate
10 wind, solar, and other renewable resources onto the electric grid to
11 meet the requirements of the energy independence act and other state
12 renewable energy requirements;

13 (f) The role of federal regulations on the generational and
14 operational flexibility of hydroelectric dams within the state of
15 Washington; and

16 (g) The policy treatment in other states with renewable energy
17 requirements of hydroelectric generation as an eligible renewable
18 resource.

19 (2) The utilities and transportation commission and the department
20 of commerce must report the findings and recommendations of the
21 analysis to the legislature by January 1, 2012.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
25 immediately.

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