

ESSB 5709 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 4/16/13

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Currently more than a million homes
4 nationwide and approximately fifty thousand homes in Washington state
5 are heated with wood pellets, or densified biomass, in modern high-
6 efficiency appliances. This residential use establishes that many
7 homeowners experience significant cost savings compared to other fossil
8 fuel-based heating systems and that this technology can have a wide and
9 varied acceptance. Bulk delivery that can be facilitated by large
10 volume anchor users such as schools, institutions, and businesses could
11 provide the next step in making this form of renewable energy
12 utilization more efficient and convenient for the consumer. The
13 legislature makes the following findings:

14 (1) That manufactured and direct thermal conversion of densified
15 biomass is a renewable energy activity;

16 (2) That much of western Europe, China, Japan, and other Asian
17 countries have chosen to use renewable densified biomass as a renewable
18 energy fuel to heat homes, businesses, and other facilities;

19 (3) That clean burning, renewable densified biomass will: (a) Lead
20 our country to energy independence; (b) create jobs; (c) stimulate our
21 economy by keeping more of our money circulating in the United States;
22 (d) reduce carbon emissions; (e) improve air quality in noncompliant
23 air sheds; (f) promote healthy forests; and (g) reduce the volume of
24 waste in landfills; that the densified biomass industry will be
25 complimentary to other biofuel industries, providing an outlet and use
26 for the resultant high lignin by-products and agriculture residuals;
27 and

28 (4) That a December 2012 report by the Washington State University
29 energy program identified opportunities to develop and expand the in-
30 state manufacturing of densified biomass.

1 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to have the
2 Washington State University energy program conduct a pilot program to
3 demonstrate the feasibility of using densified biomass as a renewable
4 energy source to heat schools and other buildings.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to receiving federal and private
6 funds for this purpose, by December 1, 2013, the Washington State
7 University energy program must develop and initiate a pilot program to
8 demonstrate the feasibility of using densified biomass to heat public
9 schools. Two public schools must be chosen for the pilot program,
10 using the following criteria: The school's proximity to a currently
11 operating densified biomass manufacturing facility, the age and
12 condition of the school's current heating system, and the school's
13 design is of a nature that most resembles other schools of its class.
14 The pilot program must consist of the following: The replacement of
15 the school's current heating system with one that uses densified
16 biomass as a fuel; the measurement and evaluation of the heating
17 system, including a cost comparison with other conventional fuels; and
18 the measurement of emissions from the heating system. One of the
19 public schools selected for the pilot must be located in a district
20 east of the crest of the Cascade mountains and one must be located in
21 a district west of the crest of the Cascade mountains. The school
22 district east of the crest of the Cascade mountains must be located in
23 a county that shares an international border or borders the state of
24 Idaho.

25 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
26 notify all school districts about the pilot project and their
27 opportunity to participate.

28 (3) By December 31, 2015, the Washington State University energy
29 program must summarize and report its findings to the legislature. The
30 report must include an analysis extrapolating the results to other
31 similarly situated schools in the state.

32 (4) In designing the pilot program, the Washington State University
33 energy program must seek to leverage other existing private and federal
34 funding programs and resources.

35 (5) The Washington State University energy program may contract
36 with other entities for assistance in implementing the pilot program.

37 (6) The pilot program expires December 15, 2015."

1 Correct the title.

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