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HOUSE BILL 2966

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Muri and Fey

Read first time 02/03/16. Referred to Committee on Technology & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrification of transportation  
2 infrastructure; amending RCW 35.92.355; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 35.92 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 54.16 RCW; and  
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that programs for  
7 the electrification of transportation allow electric utilities to  
8 optimize the use of electric grid infrastructure, to better manage  
9 electric loads, and to better manage the integration of variable  
10 renewable energy and energy storage resources. These programs provide  
11 cost-effective energy efficiency due to the benefits they provide in  
12 energy savings, more efficient use of energy resources, and more  
13 cost-efficient use of electric distribution system resources and  
14 infrastructure that can result in cost savings and benefits for all  
15 ratepayers.

16 The legislature further finds that as with traditional energy  
17 conservation programs that provide financing for more efficient use  
18 of energy in existing buildings and structures, programs that  
19 directly provide for electrification of transportation or that  
20 provide for financing of such electrification can enable utilities

1 and their customers to achieve more efficient use of energy resources  
2 and electric distribution system and infrastructure.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.92.355 and 1993 c 204 s 5 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 The conservation of energy in all forms and by every possible  
6 means is found and declared to be a public purpose of highest  
7 priority. The legislature further finds and declares that all  
8 municipal corporations, quasi municipal corporations, and other  
9 political subdivisions of the state which are engaged in the  
10 generation, sale, or distribution of energy should be granted the  
11 authority to develop and carry out programs which will conserve  
12 resources, reduce waste, and encourage more efficient use of energy  
13 and energy infrastructure by consumers.

14 In order to establish the most effective statewide program for  
15 energy conservation and energy infrastructure efficiency, the  
16 legislature hereby encourages any company, corporation, or  
17 association engaged in selling or furnishing utility services to  
18 assist their customers in the acquisition and installation of  
19 materials and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the  
20 conservation ((~~or~~)) and more efficient use of energy and energy  
21 infrastructure. The use of appropriate tree plantings for energy  
22 conservation is encouraged as part of these programs.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 35.92  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) Any city or town engaged in the generation, sale, or  
26 distribution of energy is authorized, within limits established by  
27 the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist its customers  
28 in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and  
29 equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the electrification of  
30 transportation, and to offer programs, services, or investment in the  
31 electrification of transportation for its customers that benefit all  
32 the ratepayers, pursuant to an electrification of transportation plan  
33 adopted by the city or town if the cost, program, service, or  
34 investment demonstrates a benefit to the ratepayers.

35 (2) Except where otherwise authorized, this assistance is limited  
36 to:

37 (a) Providing an inspection of the structure or equipment, either  
38 directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to

1 determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing  
2 and installing materials and equipment for which financial assistance  
3 will be approved;

4 (b) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the  
5 materials and equipment within or in close proximity to the service  
6 area of the city or town. Each of the businesses must have requested  
7 to be included on the list and must have the ability to provide the  
8 products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the materials in  
9 accordance with the prevailing national standards;

10 (c) Arranging to have approved materials and equipment installed  
11 by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the  
12 residential structure and verifying the installation; and

13 (d) Arranging or providing financing or incentives for the  
14 purchase and installation of approved materials and equipment. The  
15 materials and equipment must be purchased from a private business and  
16 must be installed by a private business or the owner.

17 (3) If financing is provided in the form of a loan, pay back must  
18 be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed  
19 either together with use charges or separately. Loans may not exceed  
20 two hundred forty months in length.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 54.16  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) A district is authorized, within limits established by the  
24 Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist its customers in  
25 financing the acquisition and installation of materials and  
26 equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the electrification of  
27 transportation, and to offer programs, services, or investment in the  
28 electrification of transportation for its customers that benefit all  
29 ratepayers, pursuant to an electrification of transportation plan  
30 adopted by the district if the cost, program, service, or investment  
31 demonstrates a benefit to the ratepayers.

32 (2) Except where otherwise authorized, this assistance is limited  
33 to:

34 (a) Providing an inspection of the structure or equipment either  
35 directly or through one more inspectors under contract, to determine  
36 and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and  
37 installing materials and equipment for which financial assistance  
38 will be approved;

1           (b) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the  
2 materials and equipment within or in close proximity to the service  
3 area of the district. Each of the businesses must have requested to  
4 be included on the list and must have the ability to provide the  
5 products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the materials in  
6 accordance with the prevailing national standard;

7           (c) Arranging to have approved materials and equipment installed  
8 by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the  
9 residential structure and verifying the installation; and

10          (d) Arrange or providing financing or incentives for the purchase  
11 and installation of approved materials and equipment. The materials  
12 and equipment must be purchased from a private business and must be  
13 installed by a private business or the owner.

14          (3) If financing is provided in the form of a loan, pay back must  
15 be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed  
16 either together with use charges or separately. Loans may not exceed  
17 two hundred forty months in length.

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