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**SENATE BILL 6218**

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**State of Washington**                      **64th Legislature**                      **2016 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Brown, Braun, Hewitt, Rivers, Roach, and Sheldon

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to the clean energy education program; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 28B.30 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that it is in the  
5 public interest to present students with the opportunity to engage in  
6 a voluntary educational program designed to stimulate student  
7 interest in clean energy technologies that will provide affordable,  
8 reliable, low-emission energy for Washington.

9            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28B.30  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11            (1) The clean energy education program is established and shall  
12 be administered by the director of the Washington State University  
13 extension energy program.

14            (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
15 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

16            (a) "Clean energy technologies" means any established or  
17 experimental energy generation technology that may be investigated  
18 for the purpose of finding innovative methods for generating  
19 affordable, reliable, low-emission energy, and includes, but is not  
20 limited to, energy generation from wind, solar, geothermal, biogas,

1 wave or tidal, biomass, nuclear, and hydroelectric technologies, and  
2 technologies that may reduce emissions from energy generation from  
3 fossil fuels.

4 (b) "Director" means the director of the Washington State  
5 University extension energy program or the director's designee.

6 (c) "Eligible student" means a student in grades nine through  
7 twelve in Washington.

8 (3) By July 1, 2017, subject to the availability of amounts  
9 appropriated for administering the clean energy education program,  
10 the director shall:

11 (a) Develop a series of workshops open to voluntary participation  
12 by eligible students focusing on a variety of clean energy  
13 technologies, including examining scientific and economic forces that  
14 influence research, development, and deployment of clean energy  
15 technologies in Washington. The clean energy education program must  
16 include opportunities for students to produce and showcase research  
17 and work product;

18 (b) Develop workshops that feature a broad variety of clean  
19 energy technologies for the purpose of presenting a diverse range of  
20 ideas to students. In developing the workshops, the director shall  
21 seek the advice and recommendations of individuals and organizations  
22 active in the field of energy technology, including universities,  
23 utilities, nonprofit and for-profit companies, state and local  
24 government agencies, industry associations, joint operating agencies,  
25 national laboratories located in Washington, and other knowledgeable  
26 individuals and organizations. The director shall retain authority  
27 for developing content for the workshops under this subsection;

28 (c) Develop a process for including individuals active in the  
29 field of energy technology as voluntary participants in the workshops  
30 developed under this section. Individuals selected to participate in  
31 workshops are not employees or agents of the state or any of its  
32 political subdivisions. This subsection (3)(c) does not create any  
33 civil liability on the part of the state or any of its political  
34 subdivisions, officers, employees, or agents for actions taken by  
35 individuals not affiliated with the Washington State University  
36 extension energy program participating in a workshop;

37 (d) Develop a strategy for publicizing workshops created under  
38 this section to eligible students and their teachers; and

39 (e) Develop an application process for eligible students to  
40 participate in the workshops created under this section. The director

1 may develop criteria for prioritizing students, including but not  
2 limited to grade point averages, completion of relevant courses, and  
3 participation in relevant activities.

4 (4) The clean energy education program account is created in the  
5 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from appropriations by  
6 the legislature, gifts, grants, or donations received for the program  
7 by the director must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from  
8 the account may be used only for the purposes of the clean energy  
9 education program. Only the director or the director's designee may  
10 authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to  
11 the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an  
12 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

13 (5) The director may adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW to  
14 implement the clean energy education program consistent with this  
15 act.

16 (6) By December 15th of each year workshops are offered, the  
17 director must report to the legislature on the number and location of  
18 workshops held, the content of the workshops, and the number and ages  
19 of students who attended. The director may include any other  
20 information in the report that can assist the legislature in  
21 determining the effectiveness of the program.

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