
SENATE BILL 6545

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senator Ericksen

Read first time 01/25/16. Referred to Committee on Energy,
Environment & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a task force on Washington's clean
2 energy economy; creating new sections; providing an expiration date;
3 and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington
6 holds unique advantages setting it apart as a state where
7 manufacturers can make products while maintaining a low emissions
8 profile. These advantages include an abundance of electricity
9 generated by technologies that do not emit greenhouse gases, low
10 rates of fossil fuel consumption, and a multitude of approved
11 practices by both public and private entities that cast Washington as
12 an established leader in energy efficiency. Washington should be
13 recognized for its potential to enhance job creation and the
14 environment; therefore, the legislature finds that the state should
15 evaluate all means for encouraging manufacturers to produce goods in
16 Washington with a small carbon footprint. It is the legislature's
17 specific public policy objective to establish a bipartisan task force
18 to comprehensively review Washington's laws, regulations, and tax
19 system with the goal of making recommendations to the legislature for
20 leveraging Washington's clean energy economy to grow the state's
21 manufacturing sector.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The task force on Washington's clean
2 energy economy is established. The task force must consist of the
3 following members: Eight legislators, with two members from each of
4 the two largest caucuses of the senate appointed by the leaders of
5 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate, and two members from
6 each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives
7 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. Task force
8 members must continue to serve as members of the task force until
9 they are no longer members of the legislature or the task force
10 expires. If a member of the task force vacates his or her membership
11 on the task force, a new task force member must be appointed
12 according to the appointment process established in this subsection.

13 (2) At its first official meeting, the task force must choose
14 from among its members a chairperson and vice chairperson. Any task
15 force member selected to serve as chairperson must be a member
16 appointed to the task force by a leader of one of the two largest
17 caucuses of the senate. Any task force member selected to serve as
18 vice chairperson must be a member appointed to the task force by the
19 speaker of the house of representatives.

20 (3) The task force must hold two meetings. The first meeting must
21 be held at a suitable facility located in Whatcom county, to be
22 determined by the chairperson. The second meeting must be held at a
23 suitable facility located in Grant county, to be determined by the
24 chairperson.

25 (4) The task force must receive the support of professional staff
26 assigned to the task force by senate committee services and the house
27 of representatives office of program research.

28 (5) The task force must hold meetings, take testimony, order and
29 review reports, and take any other action necessary for informing the
30 task force's deliberations. Meetings of the task force must be open
31 to the public.

32 (6) The task force must produce a report making recommendations
33 to the legislature prior to the date on which the task force expires.
34 The report must include recommendations for making changes to the
35 state's energy, environmental, regulatory, and tax policies to
36 enhance the health of Washington's manufacturing sector. No task
37 force member is required to sign, support, or otherwise endorse the
38 report or any part of it.

39 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires December 31, 2016.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
3 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
4 effect immediately.

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