
HOUSE BILL 2914

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Smith, Fitzgibbon, Doglio, and Senn

Read first time 01/24/18. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to Washington's economic development potential as
2 a world leader in the responsible management of postconsumer
3 materials; amending RCW 70.95.290; adding a new section to chapter
4 70.95 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends for Washington to
7 continue to be a leader in economically and environmentally
8 sustainable management of recyclable materials and solid waste. In
9 this act, the legislature intends to underscore the state's
10 accountability for the waste it generates and to inform more
11 widespread public understanding of the realities and challenges of
12 recyclable material collection as a part of solid waste management.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of commerce shall
14 arrange for the completion of an economic analysis of recyclable
15 material and solid waste processing, export, and disposal activities
16 in Washington. The analysis must include:

17 (a) An overview of the existing businesses that derive value from
18 processing recyclable materials or solid wastes into saleable
19 products and an evaluation of opportunities and barriers to the
20 expansion of the number and types of these businesses in the state.

1 This overview must not result in the publication of confidential
2 business information; and

3 (b) An evaluation of the implications of recent recycling market
4 changes in the western United States on recycling rates and on
5 businesses collecting and processing recyclable materials in
6 Washington.

7 (2) By December 1, 2019, the analysis required in subsection (1)
8 of this section must be submitted in a report to the legislature
9 consistent with the requirements of RCW 43.01.036. The analysis must
10 be accompanied by recommendations from the department of commerce
11 regarding:

12 (a) Changes to state recycling and solid waste policies, with the
13 goal of increasing the amount of recyclable materials and solid waste
14 generated in Washington that end up being processed or disposed of in
15 Washington or in other places where postconsumer materials are
16 managed with economically and environmentally sustainable practices;
17 and

18 (b) The development of a public outreach strategy, led by the
19 utilities and transportation commission, that is statewide in scope
20 but that accommodates the variation in local government collection
21 activities and local community considerations, and that is designed
22 to reduce rates of contamination of recyclable materials and improve
23 consumer education regarding their role in solid waste management.

24 (3) The department of commerce must develop the recommendations
25 in subsection (2) of this section in consultation with the utilities
26 and transportation commission, the department of ecology, an
27 association representing the private sector solid waste industry, and
28 interested stakeholders.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.95
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) With input from material recovery facility operators and
32 other stakeholders, the department must develop guidelines designed
33 to:

34 (a) Help counties and cities reduce collected recyclable material
35 contamination rates; and

36 (b) Promote statewide best practices in the types and materials
37 of recyclable material collection. These best practices may
38 categorize best practices by local government size or other
39 considerations.

1 (2) The guidelines in this section must be updated periodically
2 to reflect changes in recyclable material market conditions.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.95.290 and 1988 c 184 s 3 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 ~~((1) The evaluation of the solid waste stream required in RCW
6 70.95.280 shall include the following elements:~~

7 ~~(a) The department shall determine which management method for
8 each category of solid waste will have the least environmental
9 impact; and~~

10 ~~(b) The department shall evaluate the costs of various management
11 options for each category of solid waste, including a review of
12 market availability, and shall take into consideration the economic
13 impact on affected parties;~~

14 ~~(c) Based on the results of (a) and (b) of this subsection, the
15 department shall determine the best management for each category of
16 solid waste. Different management methods for the same categories of
17 waste may be developed for different parts of the state.~~

18 ~~(2))~~ In the evaluation of the solid waste stream required in RCW
19 70.95.280, the department shall give priority to evaluating
20 categories of solid waste that, in relation to other categories of
21 solid waste, comprise a large volume of the solid waste stream,
22 present economic opportunities for material recovery, recycling, and
23 reuse, or present a high potential of harm to human health. At a
24 minimum the following categories of waste shall be evaluated: ~~((a)~~
25 ~~By January 1, 1989,))~~ Yard waste and other biodegradable materials,
26 paper products, disposable diapers, ((and)) batteries((; and

27 ~~(b) By January 1, 1990))~~, metals, glass, plastics, styrofoam or
28 rigid lightweight cellular polystyrene, and tires.

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