
HOUSE BILL 2586

State of Washington

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2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Ramel, Fitzgibbon, Shewmake, Doglio, Stonier, Mead, Duerr, Lekanoff, Hudgins, and Macri

Read first time 01/15/20. Referred to Committee on Environment & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to the electrification of homes and buildings;
2 adding a new section to chapter 35.92 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 54.16 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Programs for the electrification of homes and buildings have
7 the potential to allow electric utilities to optimize the use of
8 electric grid infrastructure, improve the management of electric
9 loads, better manage the integration of variable renewable energy
10 resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector,
11 and improve indoor air quality.

12 (2) Legislative clarity is important for utilities to offer
13 programs and services, including incentives, in the electrification
14 of homes and buildings for their customers. It is the intent of the
15 legislature to achieve parity among all electric utilities so that
16 each utility, depending on its unique circumstances, can determine
17 its appropriate role in advancing home and building electrification
18 for its customers.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.92
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The governing authority of an electric utility formed under
2 this chapter may adopt a beneficial electrification plan that
3 establishes a finding that utility outreach and investment in the
4 electrification of homes and buildings is in the public interest.

5 (2) In adopting a beneficial electrification plan under
6 subsection (1) of this section, the governing authority may consider
7 some or all of the following:

8 (a) The applicability of multiple options for electrification of
9 various energy end-uses or other energy sources;

10 (b) The impact of beneficial electrification on the electric
11 utility's load and whether demand response or other load management
12 opportunities, including direct load control and dynamic pricing, are
13 operationally appropriate;

14 (c) An assessment of conservation measures to offset load impacts
15 of beneficial electrification;

16 (d) System reliability and distribution system efficiencies;

17 (e) The opportunity for greenhouse gas emission reductions,
18 consistent with the emission reduction targets recommended by the
19 department of ecology under RCW 70.235.040;

20 (f) The opportunity for indoor and outdoor air quality benefits
21 to utility customers; and

22 (g) The overall benefits and costs of planned action, including
23 the cost of greenhouse gas emissions calculated pursuant to RCW
24 80.28.405.

25 (3) In adopting a beneficial electrification plan under
26 subsection (1) of this section, the governing authority of an
27 electric utility formed under this chapter must prioritize the
28 allocation of benefits to vulnerable populations in the electric
29 utility's service territory.

30 (4) An electric utility formed under this chapter may, upon
31 making a determination in accordance with subsection (1) of this
32 section, offer incentives and other programs to accelerate the
33 beneficial electrification of homes and buildings for its customers,
34 including the promotion of electrically-powered equipment,
35 advertising beneficial electrification programs and projects,
36 educational programs, and customer incentives or rebates.

37 (5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
38 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

39 (a) "Beneficial electrification" means electrification of an
40 energy end-use in a way that provides a net benefit to the utility or

1 utility customers by improving the management of the electric grid,
2 reducing customer costs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the
3 buildings sector, improving indoor and outdoor air quality, or other
4 public interest benefits.

5 (b) "Vulnerable populations" means communities that experience a
6 disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to:

7 (i) Adverse socioeconomic factors including, but not limited to,
8 unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to
9 income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and
10 (ii) sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates
11 of hospitalization.

12 (6) Nothing in this section limits the existing authority of an
13 electric utility formed under this chapter to offer incentives and
14 other programs to accelerate the electrification of homes and
15 buildings for its customers if such electrification is in the direct
16 economic interest of the electric utility or its customers.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 54.16
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The commission of a public utility district may adopt a
20 beneficial electrification plan that establishes a finding that
21 outreach and investment in the electrification of homes and buildings
22 is in the public interest.

23 (2) In adopting a beneficial electrification plan under
24 subsection (1) of this section, the commission of a public utility
25 district may consider some or all of the following:

26 (a) The applicability of multiple options for electrification of
27 various energy end-uses or other energy sources;

28 (b) The impact of beneficial electrification on the district's
29 load and whether demand response or other load management
30 opportunities, including direct load control and dynamic pricing, are
31 operationally appropriate;

32 (c) An assessment of conservation measures to offset load impacts
33 of beneficial electrification;

34 (d) System reliability and distribution system efficiencies;

35 (e) The opportunity for greenhouse gas emission reductions,
36 consistent with the emission reduction targets recommended by the
37 department of ecology under RCW 70.235.040;

38 (f) The opportunity for indoor and outdoor air quality benefits
39 to utility customers; and

1 (g) The overall benefits and costs of planned action, including
2 the cost of greenhouse gas emissions calculated pursuant to RCW
3 80.28.405.

4 (3) In adopting a beneficial electrification plan under
5 subsection (1) of this section, the commission of a public utility
6 district must prioritize the allocation of benefits to vulnerable
7 populations in the district's service territory.

8 (4) A public utility district may, upon making a determination in
9 accordance with subsection (1) of this section, offer incentives and
10 other programs to accelerate the beneficial electrification of homes
11 and buildings for its customers, including the promotion of
12 electrically-powered equipment, advertising beneficial
13 electrification programs and projects, educational programs, and
14 customer incentives or rebates.

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

17 (a) "Beneficial electrification" means electrification of an
18 energy end-use in a way that provides a net benefit to the public
19 utility district or its customers by improving the management of the
20 electric grid, reducing customer costs, reducing greenhouse gas
21 emissions from the buildings sector, improving indoor and outdoor air
22 quality, or other public interest benefits.

23 (b) "Vulnerable populations" means communities that experience a
24 disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to:
25 (i) Adverse socioeconomic factors including, but not limited to,
26 unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to
27 income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and
28 (ii) sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates
29 of hospitalization.

30 (6) Nothing in this section limits the existing authority of the
31 commission of a public utility district to offer incentives and other
32 programs to accelerate the electrification of homes and buildings for
33 its customers if such electrification is in the direct economic
34 interest of the public utility district or its customers.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
36 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the

1 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
2 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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