
HOUSE BILL 2829

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Kirby, Tarleton, Riccelli, Pollet, and Macri

Read first time 01/24/20. Referred to Committee on Environment & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to declaring a climate emergency; and adding a
2 new section to chapter 43.21G RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21G
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The state of Washington declares that a climate emergency
7 threatens our state, region, nation, civilization, humanity, and the
8 natural world. Devastating effects of this emergency already impact
9 the state and will only intensify without swift intervention,
10 including:

- 11 (a) More intense and more frequent wildfires;
- 12 (b) Glacier loss;
- 13 (c) Flooding;
- 14 (d) Drought;
- 15 (e) Ocean acidification;
- 16 (f) Dwindling fish runs;
- 17 (g) Insect die-off;
- 18 (h) Orca and other species on the brink of extinction;
- 19 (i) Increased health impacts due to poor air quality;
- 20 (j) Extreme temperatures;
- 21 (k) Food insecurity;

1 (1) Water-borne illness; and

2 (m) The economic burdens associated with these impacts.

3 (2) In recognition that a climate emergency exists, and is, at
4 root, caused by the consumption of fossil fuel energy, the governor
5 may declare an energy emergency and use the powers specified in RCW
6 43.21G.040 (5) and (6) for purposes of limiting greenhouse gas
7 emissions and building resiliency to the effects of climate change.

8 (3) The powers granted in this section are not subject to
9 cessation or time limitations specified in RCW 43.21G.040 (2), (3),
10 or (4).

11 (4) In the event of a declaration of an energy emergency, any
12 proposed use of the powers specified in RCW 43.21G.040 (5) and (6) by
13 the governor must be announced by the governor by December 1st of a
14 calendar year. The governor does not have the authority to implement
15 the proposed uses of the powers until the adjournment of the regular
16 legislative session immediately following the announcement, in order
17 to allow an opportunity for the legislature to add to, limit, or
18 otherwise amend the proposals specified in the announcement.

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