

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESHB 1518

As Passed House:

January 28, 2022

Title: An act relating to environmental standards of paper products for printers and copiers that are purchased by the state, for state agencies.

Brief Description: Concerning environmental standards of paper products for printers and copiers that are purchased by the state, for state agencies.

Sponsors: House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Stonier and Ormsby).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Relations: 3/10/21, 1/10/22, 1/13/22 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 1/28/22, 94-0.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Permits state agencies to purchase paper that has at least 30 percent recycled content and is certified as responsibly sourced by a third party, rather than 100 percent recycled content paper.
- Requires the Department of Enterprise Services to identify and approve organizations that can certify paper as responsibly sourced.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Valdez, Chair; Lekanoff, Vice Chair; Volz, Ranking Minority Member; Walsh, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Dolan, Graham and Gregerson.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff: Jason Zolle (786-7124).

Background:

The Department of Enterprise Services (Department) oversees the state recycled content standards for several types of products, including paper. In 2009 the Legislature passed an act requiring each state agency to purchase 100 percent recycled content white cut sheet bond paper used in office printers and copiers. Agencies are encouraged to give priority to purchasing from companies that produce paper in facilities that generate energy from a renewable energy source. If the agency's printers and copiers cannot be calibrated to use such paper, paper must be purchased at the highest recycled content that can be efficiently used and the equipment must be replaced, at the end of its lease or life cycle, with equipment that can use 100 percent recycled paper.

The requirement to use 100 percent recycled content paper also does not apply to printed projects that require the use of high-volume production inserters or high-speed digital devices. Those projects must use the highest recycled content that can be efficiently used.

The Department is required to identify 100 percent recycled paper products that process efficiently through high-speed production equipment and do not impede the business of agencies.

Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill:

State agencies may purchase paper that has at least 30 percent recycled content and is certified as responsibly sourced by a third party approved by the Department, rather than 100 percent recycled content paper. The Department is required to identify and approve organizations that can certify paper as responsibly sourced.

The option to purchase 100 percent recycled content paper is modified by specifying that it must be 100 percent postconsumer recycled content.

Printed projects that require the use of high-volume production inserts or high-speed digital devices that cannot use 100 percent recycled paper must use 30 percent recycled content paper that is certified as responsibly-sourced, rather than using paper with the highest recycled content that can be utilized.

Corresponding requirements and exceptions are modified accordingly.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the

bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) By adding a second option for state agencies to purchase paper, this bill allows the state to be flexible and help businesses in Washington. There is one company in Washington that produces paper that meets the low-carbon standard. The state will save money and support the local economy while still meeting its environmental goals. Environmental impact should be measured over the entire operation of paper production, not just in terms of the output.

(Opposed) Washington has been a leader for environmental and social responsibility, and the current requirement is a model of other states. There are economic benefits to the recycling and waste management communities to have the state procure recycled paper. More recycling still needs to be done, but the state needs to continue economic policies that encourage a market for recycled products. The number in this bill for the standard impact of copy paper is disputed. The state should not be creating policy to specifically benefit one company; that is not the best use of taxpayer dollars in a free and fair economy.

(Other) The bill should require paper to be recycled "and" low-carbon, not "or." Allowing this second option would be a significant weakening of existing law. There are downward trends on the rates of recycling in Washington. It is also concerning to set the definition of standard copy paper in a statute, when models change over the years. The number should be set by the Department of Ecology so it can change over time.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Monica Jurado Stonier, prime sponsor; and Craig Anneberg, Tom Crowley, and Trevor Justin, North Pacific Paper Company.

(Opposed) Joshua Martin, Environmental Paper Network.

(Other) Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.