

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1280

As of February 1, 2022

Title: An act relating to greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the design of public facilities.

Brief Description: Concerning greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the design of public facilities.

Sponsors: Representatives Ramel, Duerr, Bateman, Fitzgibbon, Berry, Peterson, Goodman, Hackney, Frame, Macri, Pollet and Harris-Talley.

Brief History: Passed House: 1/21/22, 57-40.

Committee Activity: Environment, Energy & Technology: 3/18/21, 3/23/21 [DP, DNP]; 2/01/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Declares it is the public policy of the state to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions reduction practices are included in the design of major publicly owned or leased facilities, and the use of all-electric energy systems is considered in the design.
- Requires life-cycle cost analysis guidelines developed by the Department of Enterprise Services for public facilities to include provisions that identify all-electric energy systems as a system alternative.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Carlyle, Chair; Lovelett, Vice Chair; Das, Hobbs, Lias, Nguyen, Stanford and Wellman.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Ericksen, Ranking Member; Brown, Fortunato, Sheldon and Short.

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: Gregory Vogel (786-7413)

Background: One of the declared public policies of the state is to ensure that energy conservation practices and renewable energy systems are employed in the design of major publicly owned or leased facilities and the use of at least one renewable energy or combined heat and power system is considered.

Whenever a public agency determines any major facility or a critical governmental facility is to be constructed or renovated, the agency must include a life-cycle cost analysis in the design phase. The Department of Enterprise Services is responsible for developing guidelines to define a procedure and method for the performance of life-cycle cost analyses to promote the selection of low life-cycle cost alternatives. At a minimum, the guidelines must contain provisions that:

- address energy considerations during the planning phase of the project;
- identify energy components and system alternatives, including energy management systems, renewable energy systems, and combined heat and power, prior to commencing the energy consumption analysis;
- identify simplified methods to assure the lowest life-cycle cost alternatives for selected buildings with between 25,000 and 100,000 square feet of usable floor area;
- establish times during the design process for preparation, review, and approval or disapproval of the life-cycle cost analysis;
- specify the assumptions to be used for escalation and inflation rates, equipment service lives, economic building lives, and maintenance costs;
- determine life-cycle cost analysis format and submittal requirements; and
- provide for review and approval of life-cycle cost analysis.

"Energy-consumption analysis" means the evaluation of all energy systems and components by demand and type of energy, including the internal energy load imposed on a major facility or a critical governmental facility by its occupants, equipment, and components, and the external energy load imposed on a major facility or a critical governmental facility by the climatic conditions of its location.

An energy-consumption analysis must include certain elements, including the comparison of three or more system alternatives, at least one of which must include renewable energy systems, and one must comply at a minimum with the sustainable design guidelines of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standard.

Summary of Bill: The Legislature declares it is the public policy of the state to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions reduction practices are included in the design of major publicly owned or leased facilities, and the use of all-electric energy systems is considered in the design.

The life-cycle cost analysis guidelines developed by the Department of Enterprise Services must include provisions that identify all-electric energy systems as a system alternative.

The definition of energy-consumption analysis is amended to remove and replace the reference to a system alternative that complies with the sustainable design guidelines of the LEED silver standard with a system alternative that includes all-electric energy systems.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Regular Session 2022): PRO: This bill came out of conversations with school districts and community members wondering if all electric systems were considered to mitigate impacts of climate change. When facilitators looked at the option, they realized they could save money too. This bill shows how public agencies can lead by example. Doing the work now can also prevent the need for expensive retrofits later.

Building infrastructure choices have lasting impacts on energy use. This policy signals that all-electric buildings are an important option for reducing greenhouse gases. The bill will help the state make informed decisions with respect to public buildings that will last for decades.

The bill aligns with work being done by the State Efficiency and Environmental Performance Office and makes building electrification a formal step in the design process. The buildings sector is the second largest and fastest growing source of greenhouse gases in Washington.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Alex Ramel, Prime Sponsor; Lisa Parshley, Olympia City Councilmember; Doug Kilpatrick, Department of Enterprise Services; Julie Blazek, HKP Architects - American Institute of Architects WA; Hanna Waterstrat, WA Department of Commerce (SEEP).

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.