

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1176

As Reported by House Committee On:
Postsecondary Education & Workforce

Title: An act relating to developing opportunities for service and workforce programs to support climate-ready communities.

Brief Description: Developing opportunities for service and workforce programs to support climate-ready communities.

Sponsors: Representatives Slatter, Fitzgibbon, Berry, Walen, Ramel, Leavitt, Taylor, Callan, Macri, Ryu, Reeves, Reed, Mena, Chopp, Duerr, Thai, Wylie, Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Pollet and Tharinger; by request of Office of the Governor.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Postsecondary Education & Workforce: 1/17/23, 1/24/23 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Enacts the Washington Climate Corps Network to support and grow climate-related service opportunities for young adults and veterans.
- Establishes the Clean Energy Technology Workforce Advisory Committee to advise policymakers on efforts to expand the clean energy technology workforce and strategies to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change policy transitions.
- Directs the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to evaluate clean energy technology workforce needs and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass.

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.

Signed by 10 members: Representatives Slatter, Chair; Entenman, Vice Chair; Reed, Vice Chair; Ybarra, Ranking Minority Member; Hansen, Klicker, Leavitt, Paul, Pollet and Timmons.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Chandler, Jacobsen, McEntire and Schmidt.

Staff: Saranda Ross (786-7068).

Background:

Serve Washington.

The federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 required the Governor of each state to establish a state commission on service in order to be eligible for federal support of national service efforts. In 1994 the Washington Commission on National and Community Service was created by Executive Order 94-03 to:

- comply with federal requirements under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993;
- seek additional sources of nonfederal funds, especially private funds, to meet matching requirements and build upon existing service initiatives;
- provide recommendations to the Governor pertaining to legislative or policy initiatives that promote the ethic of service;
- identify existing and new policies or practices that lead to the expansion of national service opportunities in Washington and support federal programs and efforts that expand national service; and
- provide the leadership and vision, alongside local volunteer organizations, civic and community groups, and units of government, to make service a part of the lives of all Washingtonians.

In 2014 the Washington Commission on National and Community Service was renamed Serve Washington. A commission of 20 members was appointed by the Governor for three-year terms to advise Serve Washington. The Commission members function as Ambassadors of Service within their sector and in their local communities to promote service opportunities to encourage volunteerism by all Washingtonians. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) administers federal grants and provides state resources for the staffing and support of Serve Washington. The Director of the OFM appoints the Executive Director of Serve Washington.

Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) was created in 1991 to provide planning, coordination, evaluation, monitoring, and policy analysis for the state workforce training system as a whole, and to advise the Governor and the Legislature concerning the training system. It is a tripartite partnership of business, labor, and government with a Governor-appointed board of 11 members.

Career Connect Washington.

In 2017, the Governor created the Career Connect Washington Task Force to develop strategies for expanding career connected learning. Career connected learning focuses on combining classroom learning with work-based learning.

Overburdened Communities.

Overburdened communities are vulnerable populations in a geographic area facing combined, multiple environmental harms and health impacts, and includes but is not limited to highly impacted communities. Highly impacted communities are impacted by fossil fuel pollution and climate change in Washington, as identified by the Department of Health in its cumulative impact analysis, or are located in census tracts that are fully or partially on Indian country.

2008 Green Economy Jobs Growth Initiative, Labor Market Research, and Green Energy Skill Panels.

The Green Economy Jobs Growth Initiative (Green Jobs Initiative) was enacted as a part of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2815 during the 2008 legislative session. Its goal was to increase the number of clean energy jobs in the state to 25,000 by 2020. The Green Jobs Initiative required a number of actions by agencies and programs including the Employment Security Department, Department of Commerce, Workforce Board, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Washington State University Small Business Development Center, and the Washington State University Extension Energy Program. These entities, for example, were required to conduct labor market research to analyze the current labor market and projected job growth in the green economy, the current and projected recruitment and skill requirement of green economy industry employers, the wage and benefits ranges of jobs within green economy industries, and the education and training requirements of entry-level and incumbent workers in those industries.

The Employment Security Department and Department of Commerce and were also required to propose which industries will be considered high-demand green industries and define which family-sustaining wage and benefits ranges within green economy industries will be considered middle- or high-wage occupations. The Department of Commerce was required to identify emerging technologies and innovations likely to contribute to advancements in the green economy.

The Workforce Board was directed to create and pilot green industry skill panels consisting of, but not limited to, business representatives from industry sectors related to clean energy; labor unions representing workers in those industries or labor affiliates administering state-approved, joint apprenticeship programs or labor-management partnership programs that train workers for these industries; state and local veterans agencies; employer associations; educational institutions and local workforce development councils within the region where the panels propose to operate; and other key stakeholders. The panels were required to:

- conduct labor market and industry analyses, in consultation with the Employment

- Security Department, and drawing on the findings of its research when available;
- recommend strategies to meet the recruitment and training needs of the industry and small businesses; and
- recommend strategies to leverage and align other public and private funding sources.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Climate Corps Network and Clean Energy Technology Workforce Advisory Committee Establishment.

The Washington Climate Corps Network (Network) is enacted. Serve Washington establishes and operates the Network with administrative support from the Office of Financial Management (OFM). The Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) must establish a Clean Energy Technology Workforce Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee).

Climate Corps Network.

The purpose of the Network, and duty of Serve Washington, is to support and grow climate-related service opportunities for young adults and veterans with the objective of building clean energy, low-carbon, and climate-resilient communities, ecosystems, and economies while providing education, workforce development, and career pathways with a focus on overburdened communities.

In operating the Network, Serve Washington must:

1. consider the findings and recommendations from the Advisory Committee, and the needs and recommendations for forest sector workforce development;
2. establish participation rules for Network service members;
3. in coordination with the Workforce Board and other entities, and by leveraging training opportunities offered by Career Connect Washington and the Department of Natural Resources, develop and administer a Service-learning Program to provide Network service members training, which may not supplant or replace state registered apprenticeship programs, and learning opportunities on leadership, environmental stewardship, civic engagement, and climate-related professional and educational opportunities;
4. administer grants to support and broaden access to climate-related service programs with priority on overburdened communities; and
5. support equitable access to participation in the Network and reduce financial barriers for Network service members.

In administering the Network, Serve Washington and OFM may:

1. adopt rules necessary to implement the purpose of the Network;
2. receive gifts, grants, and endowments to benefit the Network; and
3. establish relationships with various public and private entities to promote and enable climate action.

Clean Energy Technology Workforce Advisory Committee.

Established by the Workforce Board, the Advisory Committee advises the Network and policymakers on efforts to expand the clean energy technology workforce by prioritizing transition of the existing workforce, providing training opportunities, and mitigating the impact of climate change policy transitions to the workforce. Advisory Committee membership is open to all interested parties and must reflect a balance of employer and worker perspectives. The Advisory Committee selects a cochair representing business and a cochair representing workers to lead it. The Advisory Committee must:

1. review workforce and business issues in the energy sector, its supply chain, and the impacts of the energy transition to dependent sectors; and
2. recommend strategies to prevent workforce displacement, support job creation in clean energy technology sectors, and provide support for workforce-related changes to business and for adversely impacted workers.

Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

Each biennium, the Workforce Board must consult with the Advisory Committee, the Department of Commerce, and the Employment Security Department to evaluate the workforce impact of Washington's climate policies, including:

- labor market trends;
- current and projected workforce demand in traditional and clean energy technology professions;
- restructuring of jobs and adjusted skillsets associated with climate change mitigation policies;
- the wage and benefits range of jobs within the clean energy sector;
- demographics of the traditional and clean energy technology sectors;
- an inventory of skills needed in clean energy technology jobs, an analysis of how the skills and training of the existing workforce can fill those needs, and identification of additional workforce development needs in the sector; and
- potential key challenges in advancing a clean energy technology workforce.

The Workforce Board must also consult with Career Connect to conduct a literature review of the existing models, data, and findings related to the workforce impact evaluation to avoid duplication of efforts.

Each biennium, the Workforce Board must consult with impacted postsecondary training partners to analyze and develop recommendations for necessary steps to support workforce training required for clean energy technology occupations. The Workforce Board must also conduct a study, or contract it out, of the feasibility of a transition to retirement program to preserve income, medical, and retirement benefits for workers close to retirement who face job loss or transition because of energy technology sector changes.

Beginning November 1, 2023, and every two years thereafter, the Workforce Board must report to the Governor and the Legislature recommendations on how Washington can

support worker and employer needs in response to changing workforce requirements for clean energy technology. The report must include:

- recommendations from the Advisory Committee;
- the Workforce Board's biennial evaluation of the workforce impact of Washington's climate policies; and
- the Workforce Board's biennial clean energy technology workforce training recommendations.

Other.

The statutes creating the Comprehensive Green Economy Jobs Growth Initiative and the Green Industry Skill Panels are repealed. The statute directing the Employment Security Department, the Department of Commerce, and the Workforce Board to conduct labor market research in the green economy is repealed.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The substitute bill: (1) requires Serve Washington to consider the needs and recommendations developed for forest sector workforce development; (2) prohibits training under the Service-learning Program from supplanting or replacing state registered apprenticeship programs; (3) requires Serve Washington to leverage opportunities to align the Service-learning Program with training offered by Career Connect and the Department of Natural Resources; (4) adds Career Connect and the Department of Natural Resources to the list of other entities Serve Washington must coordinate with in developing and administering the Service-learning Program; and (5) requires the The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to consult with Career Connect in conducting a literature review of existing findings related to its evaluation of the workforce impact of Washington's climate policies.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary fiscal note available. New fiscal note requested on January 25, 2023.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill allows Washington to transition into clean energy, rise to address the climate crisis, and create new jobs for current and future generations. Service programs such as this provide young people and veterans an opportunity to see what the future looks like.

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) is capable of upholding its duties under this timely bill, which will allow Washington to be more proactive in not leaving people behind in the transition to clean energy. The focus on transferable skills allows the Workforce Board to provide recommendations for the framework for credential pathway systems for clean energy technology. The bill also creates pathways for new entrants into the clean energy workforce.

The bill centers frontline and overburdened communities. These communities, which have historically been left out of efforts such as this, deserve jobs that have opportunities for growth and safe conditions. This bill will not only bring together diverse communities, it will also allow overburdened communities become more resilient by providing equity-centered programs.

This bill lays the groundwork for projects such as Firewise and drought contingency plans. It also addresses the feasibility of a transition to retirement program and ensures a return on investment, especially given clean energy is a high-demand workforce. The demand for a clean energy workforce outpaces the people who have the skillsets to fill it.

Persons Testifying: Representative Vandana Slatter, prime sponsor; Guillermo Rogel, Front and Centered; Carrie Sessions, Governor's Office; Amber Martin-Jahn, Serve Washington and the Office of Financial Management; Nova Gattman and Larry Brown, Workforce Board; Brian Considine, Washington State Department of Natural Resources; Paul Williams, The Suquamish Tribe; Joshua Rubenstein, The Nature Conservancy; Tom Davis, Washington Forest Protection Association; Jonathan Holcombe; Erin Frasier, Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council; Heather Kurtenbach, Ironworkers Local Union 86; Maud Daudon, Career Connect Washington; and Bridget Talebi, Washington State Department of Ecology.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.