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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1176**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by 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)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to developing opportunities for service and  
2 workforce programs to support climate-ready communities; adding new  
3 sections to chapter 43.41 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28C.18  
4 RCW; creating new sections; and repealing RCW 43.330.310, 50.12.320,  
5 and 28C.18.170.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that  
8 climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the state and  
9 the world today, and that we must mobilize Washington's young adults,  
10 veterans, and workforce to create the clean energy economy and  
11 strengthen our communities and ecosystems in the face of climate  
12 impacts.

13 (2) The legislature finds that service provides a unique  
14 opportunity to mobilize young adults and veterans to build clean  
15 energy and climate-resilient communities, economies, and ecosystems.  
16 Growing equity-centered, climate-related service programs and  
17 addressing critical gaps in service opportunities will broaden access  
18 to service, ensuring that young adults and veterans of all  
19 backgrounds, especially from overburdened communities and vulnerable  
20 populations, can serve. Doing so will also ensure that service  
21 programs address the needs of communities across the state,

1 especially those communities disproportionately impacted by  
2 environmental and health burdens.

3 (3) The legislature further finds as our state transitions away  
4 from a fossil fuel-based economy, we must do so in a way that fosters  
5 innovation, investment, and growth in clean energy technology sectors  
6 and jobs so our businesses, workforce, and communities can thrive. As  
7 state, federal, local, and tribal governments implement policies to  
8 mitigate the destructive forces of climate change, there will be  
9 consequences for Washington's businesses, workers, and communities.  
10 Accomplishing an equitable transition will require identification of  
11 future industry occupations and skill needs, the existing workforce's  
12 transferrable skills to meet those needs, and the gaps that need to  
13 be addressed through training and education. The state must also  
14 provide support in the transition for workers and communities  
15 experiencing declining jobs and revenues associated with high-  
16 emissions technologies.

17 (4) Therefore, to create pathways for workers, young adults, and  
18 veterans to help build our clean energy, climate-resilient future,  
19 the legislature intends to create the Washington climate corps  
20 network and to direct the Washington state workforce training and  
21 education coordinating board to establish a clean energy technology  
22 advisory committee and to evaluate clean energy technology workforce  
23 needs and make recommendations to the governor and legislature.

24 (5) The legislature recognizes that the creation of the  
25 Washington climate corps network is necessary to create pathways for  
26 young adults and veterans to help build our clean energy, climate-  
27 resilient future and to increase equitable access to these programs.  
28 Therefore, the legislature intends for serve Washington to launch the  
29 network and conduct initial recruitment in the 2023-25 fiscal  
30 biennium, and to grow the network in future biennia.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
34 specific purpose, the Washington climate corps network is established  
35 to support and grow climate-related service opportunities for young  
36 adults and veterans with the objective of building low-carbon and  
37 climate-resilient communities, ecosystems, and economies while  
38 providing education, workforce development, and career pathways to  
39 service members, with a focus on overburdened communities as defined

1 in RCW 70A.02.010. The Washington climate corps network shall be  
2 administered by serve Washington, an entity created in Executive  
3 Order 16-08, signed August 24, 2016. The office shall provide the  
4 administrative support to serve Washington to facilitate the  
5 establishment and operation of the Washington climate corps network.

6 (2) Serve Washington has the following duties:

7 (a) Connect, amplify, and grow climate-related service  
8 opportunities to mobilize and train young adults and veterans to  
9 build clean energy and climate-resilient communities, economies, and  
10 ecosystems, with priority on doing so in overburdened communities as  
11 defined in RCW 70A.02.010. In growing new, climate-related service  
12 opportunities, serve Washington shall consider the findings and  
13 recommendations from the clean energy technology workforce advisory  
14 committee established under section 4 of this act and the needs and  
15 recommendations developed under RCW 76.04.521 for forest sector  
16 workforce development;

17 (b) Establish common requirements for participating service  
18 programs including, but not limited to, a focus on climate-related  
19 activities, service member participation in events, and service  
20 member participation in the service-learning program established in  
21 (c) of this subsection;

22 (c) Develop and administer a service-learning program that  
23 provides training to climate corps network service members during  
24 their tenure of service. The service-learning program must provide  
25 training and learning opportunities to develop leadership skills,  
26 foster environmental stewardship and civic engagement, and expose  
27 members to an array of climate-related professional and educational  
28 opportunities. Training shall not supplant or replace state  
29 registered apprenticeship programs approved under chapter 49.04 RCW.  
30 Serve Washington shall leverage opportunities to align the service-  
31 learning program with training offered by career connect Washington  
32 under chapter 28C.30 RCW and by the department of natural resources  
33 under RCW 76.04.521. Serve Washington shall coordinate with the  
34 following entities in the design and administration of the service-  
35 learning program: Service programs; tribes; environmental justice  
36 organizations; labor organizations; institutions that provide career  
37 and technical education; the workforce training and education  
38 coordinating board created in chapter 28C.18 RCW; career connect  
39 Washington authorized under chapter 28C.30 RCW; and the department of  
40 natural resources; and

1 (d) Administer grants to support and broaden access to climate-  
2 related service programs, with priority to supporting service in,  
3 for, or by members of overburdened communities as defined in RCW  
4 70A.02.010. Serve Washington shall establish a transparent process  
5 for establishing priorities and selection criteria. Serve Washington  
6 may provide grants to:

7 (i) Support equitable access to participation in the Washington  
8 climate corps network and reduce financial barriers for service  
9 members. This includes, but is not limited to, augmenting a service  
10 member's living allowance with the intent to achieve or exceed the  
11 living wage established in the county of service, if a living wage is  
12 in place;

13 (ii) Reduce the cost of climate corps network service programs to  
14 host service members; and

15 (iii) Support the development of new service programs in  
16 geographic and topical areas that currently lack robust climate-  
17 related service programs.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41  
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) In administration of the Washington climate corps network,  
21 the office and serve Washington have the following powers:

22 (a) The office, in consultation with serve Washington, may adopt  
23 rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW as shall be necessary to  
24 implement the purpose of this chapter. Rules may include provisions  
25 to:

26 (i) Establish common requirements and eligibility criteria under  
27 section 2(2)(b) of this act;

28 (ii) Establish a transparent process for establishing priorities  
29 and selection criteria for grants dispersed under section 2(2)(d) of  
30 this act;

31 (b) Receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private  
32 sources that are made for the use or benefit of the Washington  
33 climate corps network and to expend the same or any income therefrom  
34 according to their terms and the purpose of this chapter.

35 (2) In carrying out its duties, serve Washington may establish  
36 such relationships with public and private institutions, the federal  
37 government, tribes, local governments, private industry, community  
38 organizations, and other segments of the general public as may be  
39 needed to promote and enable climate action through service.

1           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**   A new section is added to chapter 28C.18  
2 RCW to read as follows:

3           (1) The board shall establish a clean energy technology workforce  
4 advisory committee. The goal of the clean energy technology workforce  
5 advisory committee is to advise policymakers on efforts to support  
6 the expansion of clean energy technology sectors and jobs by  
7 prioritizing transition of the existing skilled workforce to new  
8 industry sectors and providing training opportunities where needed to  
9 address gaps, as well as mitigating the impact of climate change  
10 policy transitions to workers, employers, and communities.

11           (2) The clean energy technology workforce advisory committee  
12 shall:

13           (a) Review workforce and business issues in direct employment in  
14 the energy sector, in its supply chain, and the impacts of the energy  
15 transition to dependent sectors; and

16           (b) Recommend strategies to prevent workforce displacement, to  
17 support job creation in clean energy technology sectors, and to  
18 provide support for workforce-related changes to businesses and for  
19 adversely impacted workers.

20           (3) Clean energy technology workforce advisory committee  
21 membership is open to all interested parties including, but not  
22 limited to, business and worker representatives from sectors of the  
23 economy affected by the transition to clean energy.

24           (4) The clean energy technology workforce advisory committee  
25 shall select a cochair representing business and a cochair  
26 representing workers to lead the committee. Board staff shall  
27 coordinate with the cochairs to ensure that input into and  
28 deliberations of the committee reflect a balance of employer and  
29 worker perspectives.

30           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.**   A new section is added to chapter 28C.18  
31 RCW to read as follows:

32           (1) Each biennium, in consultation with the clean energy  
33 technology workforce advisory committee established in section 4 of  
34 this act and, at minimum, the department of commerce and the  
35 employment security department, the board shall evaluate the  
36 workforce impact of Washington's climate policies, including:

37           (a) Labor market trends and current and projected workforce  
38 demand in both traditional and clean energy technology professions,

1 and restructuring of jobs and adjusted skillsets associated with  
2 climate change mitigation policies;

3 (b) The wage and benefits range of jobs within the clean energy  
4 technology sector;

5 (c) Demographics of the traditional and clean energy technology  
6 sectors;

7 (d) An inventory of skills needed in clean energy technology  
8 jobs, an analysis of how the skills and training of the existing  
9 workforce can fill those needs, and identification of additional  
10 workforce development needs in this sector; and

11 (e) Key challenges that could emerge under multiple future  
12 decarbonization scenarios based on factors such as rates of adoption  
13 of various new energy technologies; growth in demand for clean  
14 electricity; and changes in energy production and availability from  
15 both in-state and out-of-state sources.

16 (2) The board shall consult with career connect Washington  
17 authorized under chapter 28C.30 RCW, and shall conduct a literature  
18 review of the existing models, data, and study findings related to  
19 the evaluation in subsection (1) of this section to ensure a  
20 duplication of efforts does not occur.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) Each biennium, the board shall develop recommendations for  
24 necessary steps to support workforce training required for clean  
25 energy technology occupations. The board shall consult with impacted  
26 postsecondary training partners, including higher education providers  
27 and apprenticeship programs, and consider the following parameters in  
28 the development of their analysis and recommendations, including  
29 identifying:

30 (a) Occupational training and skills already covered in existing  
31 training programs;

32 (b) New skills that can be integrated into existing training  
33 programs;

34 (c) Occupations and skillsets that require new training programs  
35 to be developed; and

36 (d) Resources needed to deliver training programs and support  
37 workers in the transition to clean energy technology.

38 (2) The board shall conduct a study of the feasibility of a  
39 transition to retirement program to preserve income, medical, and

1 retirement benefits for workers close to retirement who face job loss  
2 or transition because of energy technology sector changes. The board  
3 may contract with an organization to complete the study.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 Beginning November 1, 2023, and at least once every two years  
7 thereafter, the board shall report to the governor and the  
8 appropriate committees of the legislature with recommendations on how  
9 the state can support worker and employer needs in response to  
10 changing workforce requirements for clean energy technology. The  
11 report must include the recommendations of the clean energy  
12 technology workforce advisory committee established in section 4 of  
13 this act, the findings of the board's evaluation in section 5 of this  
14 act, and the board's training recommendations in section 6 of this  
15 act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
17 each repealed:

18 (1) RCW 43.330.310 (Comprehensive green economy jobs growth  
19 initiative—Establishment) and 2014 c 112 s 117;

20 (2) RCW 50.12.320 (Labor market research—High-demand green  
21 industries—Middle or high-wage occupations) and 2009 c 536 s 11; and

22 (3) RCW 28C.18.170 (Green industry skill panels—Prioritization of  
23 workforce training programs) and 2009 c 536 s 8.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
25 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
26 provided by June 30, 2023, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
27 act is null and void.

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