
HOUSE BILL 1249

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Barnard, Stearns, Couture, Rude, and Keaton

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1 AN ACT Relating to creating the commercial liftoff for energy
2 from advanced nuclear advisory commission; and adding a new chapter
3 to Title 80 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that nuclear energy
6 is a safe and reliable source of nonemitting energy and that all
7 electricity provided to Washington retail electric customers must be
8 from nonemitting or renewable resources by January 1, 2045. The
9 legislature finds that decarbonization policies and artificial
10 intelligence applications have accelerated demand on Washington's
11 electricity grid. Nuclear energy provides significant value to a
12 decarbonized grid; it is a clean firm complement to renewable
13 resources, has low land-use requirements while producing energy at
14 scale, and offers high-paying jobs and regional economic benefits.
15 Therefore, the legislature finds that nuclear energy will play an
16 essential role in the energy transition.

17 It is the intent of the legislature that a new nuclear energy
18 advisory commission shall provide a credible resource on nuclear
19 energy to the people of the state of Washington and support the
20 growth of the nuclear energy industry. The commercial liftoff for
21 energy from advanced nuclear advisory commission aims to establish a

1 common fact base with the private sector around the path to liftoff
2 for critical clean firm energy technologies.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is hereby created the commercial
4 liftoff for energy from advanced nuclear advisory commission. The
5 purpose of the commercial liftoff for energy from advanced nuclear
6 advisory commission is to catalyze more rapid and coordinated action
7 across the value chain for nuclear energy deployment. The commercial
8 liftoff for energy from advanced nuclear advisory commission is
9 composed of 13 voting members with expertise in nuclear energy.
10 Members must be nominated and appointed by the leadership of the
11 entities that they represent as follows:

12 (1) Two members from Washington State University with at least
13 one member from the institute for northwest energy futures;

14 (2) One member from the University of Washington;

15 (3) One member invited from the Pacific Northwest national
16 laboratory;

17 (4) One member invited from the United States department of
18 energy;

19 (5) One member representing a joint operating agency as described
20 in chapter 43.52 RCW and formed in 1957;

21 (6) One member from the state radiation control agency as defined
22 in RCW 70A.388.040;

23 (7) One member invited from a federally recognized tribe and
24 nominated and appointed by the governor's office of Indian affairs;

25 (8) One member from the Washington vertical innovation cluster;

26 (9) One member from the state energy office in the department of
27 commerce;

28 (10) One member from the governor's office;

29 (11) One member from the association of Washington business; and

30 (12) One member from the Washington state labor council.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The commercial liftoff for energy from
32 advanced nuclear advisory commission may:

33 (1) Establish offices that are necessary to carry out the purpose
34 of the commission as described in section 2 of this act, including
35 prescribing the functions and duties of such offices and developing
36 policies and procedures;

37 (2) Appoint or provide for the appointment of, and remove or
38 provide for the removal of, employees of the commission;

- 1 (3) Fix the salaries, wages, and other compensation of employees
2 of the commission;
- 3 (4) Fix the time and place or places at which regular or special
4 meetings are to be held. Each member of the commission is eligible to
5 be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050
6 and 43.03.060; and
- 7 (5) Solicit and receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public
8 or private sources that are made for the use or benefit of the
9 commission and to expend the same or any income therefrom according
10 to the purpose of the commission.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The duties of the commercial liftoff for
12 energy from advanced nuclear advisory commission are as follows:

13 (1) Meet at least five times a year in accordance with chapter
14 42.30 RCW to consider existing and model policies and plans to
15 support the deployment of additional nuclear energy in the state.
16 Considerations must include workforce needs;

17 (2) Develop recommendations on what is needed to site and build
18 additional nuclear facilities in the state, including a detailed
19 roadmap with timelines and targets;

20 (3) Submit recommendations to the governor and the appropriate
21 committees of the legislature by October 1st every even-numbered
22 year;

23 (4) Review the United States department of energy pathways to
24 commercial liftoff: Advanced nuclear report as of September 2024 for
25 consideration in recommendations submitted according to subsection
26 (3) of this section for the commission's first recommendation report
27 due on October 1, 2026.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act
29 constitute a new chapter in Title 80 RCW.

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