
HOUSE BILL 1302

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Cortes, Barnard, Simmons, Reed, Springer, and Timmons

Read first time 01/15/25. Referred to Committee on Environment & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing local governments to encourage
2 sustainable technology and resiliency by waiving utility connection
3 charges for organizations utilizing industrial symbiosis; amending
4 RCW 35.92.385 and 35.92.380; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that climate change
7 and environmental degradation poses a significant and increasing
8 threat to human health in Washington. This threat cannot be combatted
9 through reductions in greenhouse gas and other harmful emissions
10 alone. Instead, reductions must be combined with technological
11 innovations in clean energy, resource efficiency, and other
12 environmentally friendly practices.

13 The legislature finds that industrial symbiosis is one such
14 innovation and practice. Industrial symbiosis is characterized by the
15 beneficial utilization of waste products that may otherwise have
16 deleterious environmental effects. Industrial symbiosis reduces
17 waste, increases efficiency, promotes resiliency, and creates the
18 conditions for further innovation.

19 The legislature believes that by allowing local governments that
20 operate their own utilities to waive connection charges for
21 organizations practicing industrial symbiosis, Washington can

1 encourage the development and utilization of this sustainable
2 technology, and that such utilization is important both
3 environmentally and economically.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.92.385 and 2023 c 249 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) (a) Municipal utilities formed under this chapter may waive
7 connection charges for properties owned or developed by, or on the
8 behalf of, a nonprofit organization, public development authority,
9 housing authority, or local agency that provides emergency shelter,
10 transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or affordable
11 housing, including a limited partnership as described in RCW
12 84.36.560(7)(f)(ii) and a limited liability company as described in
13 RCW 84.36.560(7)(f)(iii).

14 (b) Municipal utilities formed under this chapter may waive
15 connection charges for properties owned or developed by public or
16 private organizations that utilize the property for industrial
17 symbiosis.

18 (2) Connection charges waived under this chapter shall be funded
19 using general funds, grant dollars, or other identified revenue
20 stream.

21 (3) At such time as a property receiving a waiver under
22 subsection (1) of this section is no longer operating under the
23 eligibility requirements under subsection (1) of this section:

24 (a) The waiver of connection charges required under subsection
25 (1) of this section is no longer required; and

26 (b) Any connection charges waived under subsection (1) of this
27 section are immediately due and payable to the utility as a condition
28 of continued service.

29 (4) For the purposes of this section:

30 (a) "Affordable housing" has the same meaning as in RCW
31 36.70A.030.

32 (b) "Connection charges" means the one-time capital and
33 administrative charges, as authorized in RCW 35.92.025, that are
34 imposed by a utility on a building or facility owner for a new
35 utility service and costs borne or assessed by a utility for the
36 labor, materials, and services necessary to physically connect a
37 designated facility to the respective utility service.

38 (c) "Emergency shelter" means any facility that has, as its sole
39 purpose, the provision of a temporary shelter for the homeless and

1 that does not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy
2 agreement.

3 (d) "Industrial symbiosis" means the utilization of industrial
4 waste or other waste products for productive use in an
5 environmentally sustainable manner. For such a use to be
6 environmentally sustainable, it must both reduce the amount of
7 resources that would otherwise have been consumed and the amount of
8 greenhouse gases that would otherwise have been emitted to accomplish
9 the same purpose.

10 (e) "Permanent supportive housing" has the same meaning as in RCW
11 36.70A.030.

12 (~~(e)~~) (f) "Transitional housing" has the same meaning as in RCW
13 84.36.043.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.92.380 and 2023 c 249 s 2 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 Whenever a city or town waives or delays collection of tap-in
17 charges, connection fees, or hookup fees for low-income persons, a
18 class of low-income persons, or a nonprofit organization, public
19 development authority, housing authority, or local agency that
20 provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent
21 supportive housing, or affordable housing as defined in RCW
22 35.92.385, or an organization utilizing the property for industrial
23 symbiosis as defined in RCW 35.92.385 to connect to lines or pipes
24 used by the city or town to provide utility service, the waiver or
25 delay shall be pursuant to a program established by ordinance. As
26 used in this section, the provision of "utility service" includes,
27 but is not limited to, water, sanitary or storm sewer service,
28 electricity, gas, other means of power, and heat.

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