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**SENATE BILL 5425**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Boehnke and Chapman

Read first time 01/22/25. Referred to Committee on Environment,  
Energy & Technology.

1 AN ACT Relating to modernizing the energy independence act to  
2 avoid regulatory duplication and overlap with other laws; amending  
3 RCW 19.285.010, 19.285.020, 19.285.040, 19.285.045, 19.285.050,  
4 19.285.060, 19.285.070, 19.285.080, 19.29A.060, and 19.405.040;  
5 creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it would be  
8 beneficial to harmonize the 2006 energy independence act with the  
9 2019 clean energy transformation act. Both laws govern the types of  
10 generation resources that utilities may use to provide electricity to  
11 Washington residents. As a result of this overlap, utilities are  
12 subject to multiple standards for the same activity. The legislature  
13 intends to address this unnecessary duplication by retaining the  
14 conservation elements of the energy independence act while ending the  
15 generation requirements. This will not create a gap in Washington's  
16 energy laws because the requirements of the clean energy  
17 transformation act continue to set the policy direction for the  
18 state. The legislature intends for this act to create efficiencies  
19 and cost savings for utilities, which will provide affordable power  
20 to consumers.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.285.010 and 2007 c 1 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (~~This chapter concerns requirements for new energy resources.~~)  
4 This chapter requires large utilities to (~~obtain fifteen percent of~~  
5 ~~their electricity from new renewable resources such as solar and wind~~  
6 ~~by 2020 and~~) undertake cost-effective energy conservation.

7       **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.285.020 and 2007 c 1 s 2 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9       Increasing energy conservation (~~and the use of appropriately~~  
10 ~~sited renewable energy facilities~~) builds on the strong foundation  
11 of low-cost renewable hydroelectric generation in Washington state  
12 and will promote energy independence in the state and the Pacific  
13 Northwest region. Making the most of our plentiful local resources  
14 will stabilize electricity prices for Washington residents, provide  
15 economic benefits for Washington counties and farmers, create high  
16 quality jobs in Washington, provide opportunities for training  
17 apprentice workers in the renewable energy field, protect clean air  
18 and water, and position Washington state as a national leader in  
19 clean energy technologies.

20       **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.285.040 and 2024 c 278 s 2 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22       (1) Each qualifying utility shall pursue all available  
23 conservation that is cost-effective, reliable, and feasible.

24       (a) By January 1, 2010, using methodologies consistent with those  
25 used by the Pacific Northwest electric power and conservation  
26 planning council in the most recently published regional power plan  
27 as it existed on June 12, 2014, or a subsequent date as may be  
28 provided by the department or the commission by rule, each qualifying  
29 utility shall identify its achievable cost-effective conservation  
30 potential through 2019. Nothing in the rule adopted under this  
31 subsection precludes a qualifying utility from using its utility  
32 specific conservation measures, values, and assumptions in  
33 identifying its achievable cost-effective conservation potential. At  
34 least every two years thereafter, the qualifying utility shall review  
35 and update this assessment for the subsequent (~~ten~~) 10-year period.

36       (b) Beginning January 2010, each qualifying utility shall  
37 establish and make publicly available a biennial acquisition target  
38 for cost-effective conservation consistent with its identification of

1 achievable opportunities in (a) of this subsection, and meet that  
2 target during the subsequent two-year period. At a minimum, each  
3 biennial target must be no lower than the qualifying utility's pro  
4 rata share for that two-year period of its cost-effective  
5 conservation potential for the subsequent (~~ten~~) 10-year period.

6 (c)(i) Except as provided in (c)(ii) and (iii) of this  
7 subsection, beginning on January 1, 2014, cost-effective conservation  
8 achieved by a qualifying utility in excess of its biennial  
9 acquisition target may be used to help meet the immediately  
10 subsequent two biennial acquisition targets, such that no more than  
11 20 percent of any biennial target may be met with excess conservation  
12 savings.

13 (ii) Beginning January 1, 2014, a qualifying utility may use  
14 single large facility conservation savings in excess of its biennial  
15 target to meet up to an additional five percent of the immediately  
16 subsequent two biennial acquisition targets, such that no more than  
17 25 percent of any biennial target may be met with excess conservation  
18 savings allowed under all of the provisions of this section combined.  
19 For the purposes of this subsection (1)(c)(ii), "single large  
20 facility conservation savings" means cost-effective conservation  
21 savings achieved in a single biennial period at the premises of a  
22 single customer of a qualifying utility whose annual electricity  
23 consumption prior to the conservation savings exceeded five average  
24 megawatts.

25 (iii) Beginning January 1, 2012, and until December 31, 2017, a  
26 qualifying utility with an industrial facility located in a county  
27 with a population between 95,000 and 115,000 that is directly  
28 interconnected with electricity facilities that are capable of  
29 carrying electricity at transmission voltage may use cost-effective  
30 conservation from that industrial facility in excess of its biennial  
31 acquisition target to help meet the immediately subsequent two  
32 biennial acquisition targets, such that no more than 25 percent of  
33 any biennial target may be met with excess conservation savings  
34 allowed under all of the provisions of this section combined.

35 (d) In meeting its conservation targets, a qualifying utility may  
36 count high-efficiency cogeneration owned and used by a retail  
37 electric customer to meet its own needs. High-efficiency cogeneration  
38 is the sequential production of electricity and useful thermal energy  
39 from a common fuel source, where, under normal operating conditions,  
40 the facility has a useful thermal energy output of no less than 33

1 percent of the total energy output. The reduction in load due to  
2 high-efficiency cogeneration shall be: (i) Calculated as the ratio of  
3 the fuel chargeable to power heat rate of the cogeneration facility  
4 compared to the heat rate on a new and clean basis of a  
5 best-commercially available technology combined-cycle natural  
6 gas-fired combustion turbine; and (ii) counted towards meeting the  
7 biennial conservation target in the same manner as other conservation  
8 savings.

9 (e) A qualifying utility is considered in compliance with its  
10 biennial acquisition target for cost-effective conservation in (b) of  
11 this subsection if events beyond the reasonable control of the  
12 utility that could not have been reasonably anticipated or  
13 ameliorated prevented it from meeting the conservation target. Events  
14 that a qualifying utility may demonstrate were beyond its reasonable  
15 control, that could not have reasonably been anticipated or  
16 ameliorated, and that prevented it from meeting the conservation  
17 target include: (i) Natural disasters resulting in the issuance of  
18 extended emergency declarations; (ii) the cancellation of significant  
19 conservation projects; and (iii) actions of a governmental authority  
20 that adversely affects the acquisition of cost-effective conservation  
21 by the qualifying utility.

22 (f) The commission may determine if a conservation program  
23 implemented by an investor-owned utility is cost-effective based on  
24 the commission's policies and practice.

25 (g) In addition to the requirements of RCW 19.280.030(3), in  
26 assessing the cost-effective conservation required under this  
27 section, a qualifying utility is encouraged to promote the adoption  
28 of air conditioning, as defined in RCW 70A.60.010, with refrigerants  
29 not exceeding a global warming potential of 750 and the replacement  
30 of stationary refrigeration systems that contain ozone-depleting  
31 substances or hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants with a high global  
32 warming potential.

33 (h) The commission may rely on its standard practice for review  
34 and approval of investor-owned utility conservation targets.

35 ~~(2) ((a) Except as provided in (j) of this subsection, each~~  
36 ~~qualifying utility shall use eligible renewable resources or acquire~~  
37 ~~equivalent renewable energy credits, or any combination of them, to~~  
38 ~~meet the following annual targets:~~

39 ~~(i) At least three percent of its load by January 1, 2012, and~~  
40 ~~each year thereafter through December 31, 2015;~~

1 ~~(ii) At least nine percent of its load by January 1, 2016, and~~  
2 ~~each year thereafter through December 31, 2019; and~~

3 ~~(iii) At least 15 percent of its load by January 1, 2020, and~~  
4 ~~each year thereafter.~~

5 ~~(b) A qualifying utility may count distributed generation at~~  
6 ~~double the facility's electrical output if the utility: (i) Owns or~~  
7 ~~has contracted for the distributed generation and the associated~~  
8 ~~renewable energy credits; or (ii) has contracted to purchase the~~  
9 ~~associated renewable energy credits.~~

10 ~~(c) In meeting the annual targets in (a) of this subsection, a~~  
11 ~~qualifying utility shall calculate its annual load based on the~~  
12 ~~average of the utility's load for the previous two years.~~

13 ~~(d) A qualifying utility shall be considered in compliance with~~  
14 ~~an annual target in (a) of this subsection if: (i) The utility's~~  
15 ~~weather-adjusted load for the previous three years on average did not~~  
16 ~~increase over that time period; (ii) after December 7, 2006, the~~  
17 ~~utility did not commence or renew ownership or incremental purchases~~  
18 ~~of electricity from resources other than coal transition power or~~  
19 ~~renewable resources other than on a daily spot price basis and the~~  
20 ~~electricity is not offset by equivalent renewable energy credits; and~~  
21 ~~(iii) the utility invested at least one percent of its total annual~~  
22 ~~retail revenue requirement that year on eligible renewable resources,~~  
23 ~~renewable energy credits, or a combination of both.~~

24 ~~(e) A qualifying utility may use renewable energy credits to meet~~  
25 ~~the requirements of this section, subject to the limitations of this~~  
26 ~~subsection.~~

27 ~~(i) A renewable energy credit from electricity generated by a~~  
28 ~~resource other than freshwater may be used to meet a requirement~~  
29 ~~applicable to the year in which the credit was created, the year~~  
30 ~~before the year in which the credit was created, or the year after~~  
31 ~~the year in which the credit was created.~~

32 ~~(ii) A renewable energy credit from electricity generated by~~  
33 ~~freshwater:~~

34 ~~(A) May only be used to meet a requirement applicable to the year~~  
35 ~~in which the credit was created; and~~

36 ~~(B) Must be acquired by the qualifying utility through ownership~~  
37 ~~of the generation facility or through a transaction that conveyed~~  
38 ~~both the electricity and the nonpower attributes of the electricity.~~

39 ~~(iii) A renewable energy credit transferred to an investor-owned~~  
40 ~~utility pursuant to the Bonneville power administration's residential~~

1 ~~exchange program may not be used by any utility other than the~~  
2 ~~utility receiving the credit from the Bonneville power~~  
3 ~~administration.~~

4 ~~(iv) Each renewable energy credit may only be used once to meet~~  
5 ~~the requirements of this section and must be retired using procedures~~  
6 ~~of the renewable energy credit tracking system.~~

7 ~~(f) In complying with the targets established in (a) of this~~  
8 ~~subsection, a qualifying utility may not count:~~

9 ~~(i) Eligible renewable resources or distributed generation where~~  
10 ~~the associated renewable energy credits are owned by a separate~~  
11 ~~entity; or~~

12 ~~(ii) Eligible renewable resources or renewable energy credits~~  
13 ~~obtained for and used in an optional pricing program such as the~~  
14 ~~program established in RCW 19.29A.090.~~

15 ~~(g) Where fossil and combustible renewable resources are cofired~~  
16 ~~in one generating unit located in the Pacific Northwest where the~~  
17 ~~cofiring commenced after March 31, 1999, the unit shall be considered~~  
18 ~~to produce eligible renewable resources in direct proportion to the~~  
19 ~~percentage of the total heat value represented by the heat value of~~  
20 ~~the renewable resources.~~

21 ~~(h) (i) A qualifying utility that acquires an eligible renewable~~  
22 ~~resource or renewable energy credit may count that acquisition at one~~  
23 ~~and two-tenths times its base value:~~

24 ~~(A) Where the eligible renewable resource comes from a facility~~  
25 ~~that commenced operation after December 31, 2005; and~~

26 ~~(B) Where the developer of the facility used apprenticeship~~  
27 ~~programs approved by the council during facility construction.~~

28 ~~(ii) The council shall establish minimum levels of labor hours to~~  
29 ~~be met through apprenticeship programs to qualify for this extra~~  
30 ~~credit.~~

31 ~~(i) A qualifying utility shall be considered in compliance with~~  
32 ~~an annual target in (a) of this subsection if events beyond the~~  
33 ~~reasonable control of the utility that could not have been reasonably~~  
34 ~~anticipated or ameliorated prevented it from meeting the renewable~~  
35 ~~energy target. Such events include weather-related damage, mechanical~~  
36 ~~failure, strikes, lockouts, and actions of a governmental authority~~  
37 ~~that adversely affect the generation, transmission, or distribution~~  
38 ~~of an eligible renewable resource under contract to a qualifying~~  
39 ~~utility.~~

1 ~~(j)(i) Beginning January 1, 2016, only a qualifying utility that~~  
2 ~~owns or is directly interconnected to a qualified biomass energy~~  
3 ~~facility may use qualified biomass energy to meet its compliance~~  
4 ~~obligation under this subsection.~~

5 ~~(ii) A qualifying utility may no longer use electricity and~~  
6 ~~associated renewable energy credits from a qualified biomass energy~~  
7 ~~facility if the associated industrial pulping or wood manufacturing~~  
8 ~~facility ceases operation other than for purposes of maintenance or~~  
9 ~~upgrade.~~

10 ~~(k) An industrial facility that hosts a qualified biomass energy~~  
11 ~~facility may only transfer or sell renewable energy credits~~  
12 ~~associated with qualified biomass energy generated at its facility to~~  
13 ~~the qualifying utility with which it is directly interconnected with~~  
14 ~~facilities owned by such a qualifying utility and that are capable of~~  
15 ~~carrying electricity at transmission voltage. The qualifying utility~~  
16 ~~may only use an amount of renewable energy credits associated with~~  
17 ~~qualified biomass energy that are equivalent to the proportionate~~  
18 ~~amount of its annual targets under (a)(ii) and (iii) of this~~  
19 ~~subsection that was created by the load of the industrial facility. A~~  
20 ~~qualifying utility that owns a qualified biomass energy facility may~~  
21 ~~not transfer or sell renewable energy credits associated with~~  
22 ~~qualified biomass energy to another person, entity, or qualifying~~  
23 ~~utility.~~

24 ~~(l) Beginning January 1, 2020, a qualifying utility may use~~  
25 ~~eligible renewable resources as identified under RCW 19.285.030(12)~~  
26 ~~(g) and (h) to meet its compliance obligation under this subsection~~  
27 ~~(2). A qualifying utility may not transfer or sell these eligible~~  
28 ~~renewable resources to another utility for compliance purposes under~~  
29 ~~this chapter.~~

30 ~~(m) Beginning January 1, 2030, a qualifying utility is considered~~  
31 ~~to be in compliance with an annual target in (a) of this subsection~~  
32 ~~if the utility uses electricity from: (i) Renewable resources and~~  
33 ~~renewable energy credits as defined in RCW 19.285.030; and (ii)~~  
34 ~~nonemitting electric generation as defined in RCW 19.405.020, in an~~  
35 ~~amount equal to 100 percent of the utility's average annual retail~~  
36 ~~electric load. Nothing in this subsection relieves the requirements~~  
37 ~~of a qualifying utility to comply with subsection (1) of this~~  
38 ~~section.~~

39 ~~(n) A qualifying utility shall exclude from its annual targets~~  
40 ~~under this subsection (2) its voluntary renewable energy purchases.~~

1       ~~(3))~~) Utilities that become qualifying utilities after December  
2 31, 2006, shall meet the requirements in this section on a time frame  
3 comparable in length to that provided for qualifying utilities as of  
4 December 7, 2006.

5       **Sec. 5.** RCW 19.285.045 and 2012 c 254 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7       (1) When requested by a consumer-owned qualifying utility or by a  
8 person proposing ~~((an electric generation project or))~~ a conservation  
9 resource, the department is authorized to and shall provide analysis  
10 and an advisory opinion on whether a proposed ~~((electric generation  
11 project or))~~ conservation resource qualifies to meet a target under  
12 RCW 19.285.040. The advisory opinion must include a legal analysis.  
13 When forming its advisory opinion, the department must: (a) Consider,  
14 and may rely on, previous opinions issued by the I-937 technical  
15 working group established by the commission and the department; and  
16 (b) solicit and consider comments from interested parties, including  
17 staff of the requesting utility. The department must give priority to  
18 any application regarding ~~((an electric generation project or))~~ a  
19 conservation resource that previously received an affirmative  
20 advisory opinion from the I-937 technical working group.

21       (2) Consumer-owned qualifying utilities and persons proposing  
22 ~~((electric generation projects or))~~ conservation resources may apply  
23 for an advisory opinion from the department. The application must be  
24 in writing and must include information that accurately describes the  
25 proposed ~~((project or))~~ resource. Within ~~((ninety))~~ 90 days of  
26 receiving an application, the director of the department must issue a  
27 signed advisory opinion on whether the proposed ~~((project or))~~  
28 resource qualifies to meet a target under RCW 19.285.040. The  
29 governing board of the consumer-owned utility that will use the  
30 resource ~~((or project))~~ must either adopt or reject the advisory  
31 opinion after public notice and hearing. Under its responsibilities  
32 in RCW 19.285.060, the auditor shall consider any ~~((project or))~~  
33 resource reviewed and adopted under the process in this section as  
34 being in compliance with RCW 19.285.040 and 19.285.060, but only if:  
35 (a) The advisory opinion affirmatively qualifies the ~~((project or))~~  
36 resource; (b) the governing board of the consumer-owned utility that  
37 will use the ~~((project or))~~ resource adopts the advisory opinion  
38 after public notice and hearing; and (c) the ~~((project or))~~ resource  
39 is built or acquired as proposed.



1 (3) The department may require an applicant to pay an application  
2 fee to cover the cost of reviewing the (~~project~~) resource and  
3 preparing an advisory opinion.

4 (~~(4) (An electric generation project reviewed and adopted under  
5 this section may produce renewable energy credits as defined in RCW  
6 19.285.030.~~

7 ~~(5))~~) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

8 (~~(6))~~) (5) Nothing in this section preempts the authority of any  
9 governing board of a consumer-owned utility from making a  
10 determination, independent of the process in this section, on whether  
11 a proposed (~~electric generation project or~~) conservation resource  
12 may qualify to meet a target under RCW 19.285.040.

13 **Sec. 6.** RCW 19.285.050 and 2007 c 1 s 5 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 (~~(1)(a) A qualifying utility shall be considered in compliance  
16 with an annual target created in RCW 19.285.040(2) for a given year  
17 if the utility invested four percent of its total annual retail  
18 revenue requirement on the incremental costs of eligible renewable  
19 resources, the cost of renewable energy credits, or a combination of  
20 both, but a utility may elect to invest more than this amount.~~

21 ~~(b) The incremental cost of an eligible renewable resource is  
22 calculated as the difference between the levelized delivered cost of  
23 the eligible renewable resource, regardless of ownership, compared to  
24 the levelized delivered cost of an equivalent amount of reasonably  
25 available substitute resources that do not qualify as eligible  
26 renewable resources, where the resources being compared have the same  
27 contract length or facility life.~~

28 ~~(2))~~) An investor-owned utility is entitled to recover all  
29 prudently incurred costs associated with compliance with this  
30 chapter. The commission shall address cost recovery issues of  
31 qualifying utilities that are investor-owned utilities that serve  
32 both in Washington and in other states in complying with this  
33 chapter.

34 **Sec. 7.** RCW 19.285.060 and 2021 c 79 s 2 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a  
37 qualifying utility that fails to comply with the energy conservation  
38 (~~or renewable energy~~) targets established in RCW 19.285.040 shall

1 pay an administrative penalty to the state of Washington in the  
2 amount of (~~fifty dollars~~) \$50 for each megawatt-hour of shortfall.  
3 Beginning in 2007, this penalty shall be adjusted annually according  
4 to the rate of change of the inflation indicator, gross domestic  
5 product-implicit price deflator, as published by the bureau of  
6 economic analysis of the United States department of commerce or its  
7 successor.

8 (2) A qualifying utility that does not meet (~~an annual renewable~~  
9 ~~energy target established in RCW 19.285.040(2) or~~) a biennial  
10 acquisition target for cost-effective conservation in RCW  
11 19.285.040(1) is exempt from the administrative penalty in subsection  
12 (1) of this section for that year if the commission for investor-  
13 owned utilities or the auditor for all other qualifying utilities  
14 determines that the utility complied with RCW 19.285.040 (1)(e) (~~or~~  
15 ~~(2) (d) or (i) or 19.285.050(1)~~).

16 (3) A qualifying utility must notify its retail electric  
17 customers in published form within three months of incurring a  
18 penalty regarding the size of the penalty and the reason it was  
19 incurred.

20 (4) The commission shall determine if an investor-owned utility  
21 may recover the cost of this administrative penalty in electric  
22 rates, and may consider providing positive incentives for an  
23 investor-owned utility to exceed the targets established in RCW  
24 19.285.040.

25 (5) Administrative penalties collected under this chapter shall  
26 be deposited into the energy independence act special account which  
27 is hereby created. All receipts from administrative penalties  
28 collected under this chapter must be deposited into the account.  
29 Expenditures from the account may be used only for (~~the purchase of~~  
30 ~~renewable energy credits or for~~) energy conservation projects at  
31 public facilities, local government facilities, community colleges,  
32 or state universities. The state shall own and retire any renewable  
33 energy credits purchased using moneys from the account. Only the  
34 director of enterprise services or the director's designee may  
35 authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to  
36 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is  
37 not required for expenditures.

38 (6) For a qualifying utility that is an investor-owned utility,  
39 the commission shall determine compliance with the provisions of this

1 chapter and assess penalties for noncompliance as provided in  
2 subsection (1) of this section.

3 (7) For qualifying utilities that are not investor-owned  
4 utilities, the auditor is responsible for auditing compliance with  
5 this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter that apply to those  
6 utilities and the attorney general is responsible for enforcing that  
7 compliance.

8 **Sec. 8.** RCW 19.285.070 and 2007 c 1 s 7 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 (1) On or before June 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, each  
11 qualifying utility shall report to the department on its progress in  
12 the preceding year in meeting the targets established in RCW  
13 19.285.040, including expected electricity savings from the biennial  
14 conservation target, expenditures on conservation, actual electricity  
15 savings results, and the utility's annual load for the prior two  
16 years (~~(, the amount of megawatt-hours needed to meet the annual~~  
17 ~~renewable energy target, the amount of megawatt-hours of each type of~~  
18 ~~eligible renewable resource acquired, the type and amount of~~  
19 ~~renewable energy credits acquired, and the percent of its total~~  
20 ~~annual retail revenue requirement invested in the incremental cost of~~  
21 ~~eligible renewable resources and the cost of renewable energy~~  
22 ~~credits. For each year that a qualifying utility elects to~~  
23 ~~demonstrate alternative compliance under RCW 19.285.040(2) (d) or (i)~~  
24 ~~or 19.285.050(1), it must include in its annual report relevant data~~  
25 ~~to demonstrate that it met the criteria in that section)). A~~  
26 qualifying utility may submit its report to the department in  
27 conjunction with its annual obligations in chapter 19.29A RCW.

28 (2) A qualifying utility that is an investor-owned utility shall  
29 also report all information required in subsection (1) of this  
30 section to the commission, and all other qualifying utilities shall  
31 also make all information required in subsection (1) of this section  
32 available to the auditor.

33 (3) A qualifying utility shall also make reports required in this  
34 section available to its customers.

35 **Sec. 9.** RCW 19.285.080 and 2017 c 315 s 3 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

1 (1) The commission may adopt rules to ensure the proper  
2 implementation and enforcement of this chapter as it applies to  
3 investor-owned utilities.

4 (2) The department shall adopt rules concerning only process,  
5 timelines, and documentation to ensure the proper implementation of  
6 this chapter as it applies to qualifying utilities that are not  
7 investor-owned utilities. Those rules include, but are not limited  
8 to, rules associated with a qualifying utility's development of  
9 conservation targets under RCW 19.285.040(1) (~~(; a qualifying~~  
10 ~~utility's decision to pursue alternative compliance in RCW~~  
11 ~~19.285.040(2) (d) or (i) or 19.285.050(1);)~~) and the format and  
12 content of reports required in RCW 19.285.070 (~~(; and the development~~  
13 ~~of a methodology for calculating baseline levels of generation under~~  
14 ~~RCW 19.285.030(12) (f);)~~). Nothing in this subsection may be construed  
15 to restrict the rate-making authority of the commission or a  
16 qualifying utility as otherwise provided by law.

17 (3) The commission and department may coordinate in developing  
18 rules related to process, timelines, and documentation that are  
19 necessary for implementation of this chapter.

20 (4) Pursuant to the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05  
21 RCW, rules needed for the implementation of this chapter must be  
22 adopted by December 31, 2007. These rules may be revised as needed to  
23 carry out the intent and purposes of this chapter.

#### 24 **Conforming Amendments**

25 **Sec. 10.** RCW 19.29A.060 and 2019 c 222 s 4 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (1) Each retail supplier must disclose to its customers the fuel  
28 characteristics of each electricity product it offers to retail  
29 electric customers using information consistent with the retail  
30 supplier's source and disposition report.

31 (2) The fuel characteristics disclosures required by this section  
32 must identify for each electricity product the percentage of the  
33 total electricity product sold by a retail supplier during the  
34 previous calendar year from each of the following categories, using a  
35 uniform format:

- 36 (a) Coal;
- 37 (b) Hydroelectric;
- 38 (c) Natural gas;

1 (d) Nuclear;  
2 (e) Petroleum;  
3 (f) Solar;  
4 (g) Wind;  
5 (h) Other generation, except that when a component of the other  
6 generation category meets or exceeds two percent of the total  
7 electricity product sold by a retail supplier during the previous  
8 calendar year, the retail supplier shall identify the component or  
9 components and display the fuel mix percentages for these component  
10 sources. A retail supplier may voluntarily identify any component or  
11 components within the other generation category that comprises two  
12 percent or less of annual sales; and

13 (i) Unspecified sources.

14 (3) If the percentage amount of unspecified sources identified in  
15 subsection (2) of this section exceeds two percent for an electricity  
16 product, the retail supplier must include on the label a general  
17 description of unspecified sources and an explanation of why some  
18 power sources are unknown to the retail supplier.

19 (4) A retail supplier may not include in the electricity product  
20 content label any environmental quality or environmental impact  
21 qualifier, other than those permitted or required by this chapter,  
22 related to any of the generation categories disclosed.

23 (5) For the portion of an electricity product purchased from the  
24 Bonneville power administration, a retail supplier may incorporate  
25 the Bonneville power administration system mix in its disclosure.

26 (6) A retail supplier may include with the electricity product  
27 content label additional information concerning the quantity of  
28 renewable energy certificates, if not otherwise included in the  
29 retail supplier's declared resources, that are retired (~~for~~  
30 ~~compliance with RCW 19.285.040(2) in the~~) in a reporting year.

31 **Sec. 11.** RCW 19.405.040 and 2019 c 288 s 4 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) It is the policy of the state that all retail sales of  
34 electricity to Washington retail electric customers be greenhouse gas  
35 neutral by January 1, 2030.

36 (a) For the four-year compliance period beginning January 1,  
37 2030, and for each multiyear compliance period thereafter through  
38 December 31, 2044, an electric utility must demonstrate its  
39 compliance with this standard using a combination of nonemitting

1 electric generation and electricity from renewable resources, or  
2 alternative compliance options, as provided in this section. To  
3 achieve compliance with this standard, an electric utility must: (i)  
4 Pursue all cost-effective, reliable, and feasible conservation and  
5 efficiency resources to reduce or manage retail electric load, using  
6 the methodology established in RCW 19.285.040, if applicable; and  
7 (ii) use electricity from renewable resources and nonemitting  
8 electric generation in an amount equal to (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent  
9 of the utility's retail electric loads over each multiyear compliance  
10 period. An electric utility must achieve compliance with this  
11 standard for the following compliance periods: January 1, 2030,  
12 through December 31, 2033; January 1, 2034, through December 31,  
13 2037; January 1, 2038, through December 31, 2041; and January 1,  
14 2042, through December 31, 2044.

15 (b) Through December 31, 2044, an electric utility may satisfy up  
16 to (~~twenty~~) 20 percent of its compliance obligation under (a) of  
17 this subsection with an alternative compliance option consistent with  
18 this section. An alternative compliance option may include any  
19 combination of the following:

20 (i) Making an alternative compliance payment under RCW  
21 19.405.090(2);

22 (ii) Using unbundled renewable energy credits, provided that  
23 there is no double counting of any nonpower attributes associated  
24 with renewable energy credits within Washington or programs in other  
25 jurisdictions, as follows:

26 (A) Unbundled renewable energy credits produced from eligible  
27 renewable resources, as defined under RCW 19.285.030 (~~(, which may be  
28 used by the electric utility for compliance with RCW 19.285.040 and  
29 this section as provided under RCW 19.285.040(2)(e))~~); and

30 (B) Unbundled renewable energy credits, other than those included  
31 in (b)(ii)(A) of this subsection, that represent electricity  
32 generated within the compliance period;

33 (iii) Investing in energy transformation projects, including  
34 additional conservation and efficiency resources beyond what is  
35 otherwise required under this section, provided the projects meet the  
36 requirements of subsection (2) of this section and are not credited  
37 as resources used to meet the standard under (a) of this subsection;  
38 or

39 (iv) Using electricity from an energy recovery facility using  
40 municipal solid waste as the principal fuel source, where the

1 facility was constructed prior to 1992, and the facility is operated  
2 in compliance with federal laws and regulations and meets state air  
3 quality standards. An electric utility may only use electricity from  
4 such an energy recovery facility if the department and the department  
5 of ecology determine that electricity generation at the facility  
6 provides a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to any  
7 other available waste management best practice. The determination  
8 must be based on a life-cycle analysis comparing the energy recovery  
9 facility to other technologies available in the jurisdiction in which  
10 the facility is located for the waste management best practices of  
11 waste reduction, recycling, composting, and minimizing the use of a  
12 landfill.

13 (c) Electricity from renewable resources used to meet the  
14 standard under (a) of this subsection must be verified by the  
15 retirement of renewable energy credits. Renewable energy credits must  
16 be tracked and retired in the tracking system selected by the  
17 department.

18 (d) Hydroelectric generation used by an electric utility in  
19 meeting the standard under (a) of this subsection may not include new  
20 diversions, new impoundments, new bypass reaches, or expansion of  
21 existing reservoirs constructed after May 7, 2019, unless the  
22 diversions, bypass reaches, or reservoir expansions are necessary for  
23 the operation of a pumped storage facility that: (i) Does not  
24 conflict with existing state or federal fish recovery plans; and (ii)  
25 complies with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

26 (e) Nothing in (d) of this subsection precludes an electric  
27 utility that owns and operates hydroelectric generating facilities,  
28 or the owner of a hydroelectric generating facility whose energy  
29 output is marketed by the Bonneville power administration, from  
30 making efficiency or other improvements to its hydroelectric  
31 generating facilities existing as of May 7, 2019, or from installing  
32 hydroelectric generation in pipes, culverts, irrigation canals, and  
33 other man-made waterways, as long as those changes do not create  
34 conflicts with existing state or federal fish recovery plans and  
35 comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

36 (f) Nonemitting electric generation used to meet the standard  
37 under (a) of this subsection must be generated during the compliance  
38 period and must be verified by documentation that the electric  
39 utility owns the nonpower attributes of the electricity generated by  
40 the nonemitting electric generation resource.

1 (g) Nothing in this section prohibits an electric utility from  
2 purchasing or exchanging power from the Bonneville power  
3 administration.

4 (2) Investments in energy transformation projects used to satisfy  
5 an alternative compliance option provided under subsection (1)(b) of  
6 this section must use criteria developed by the department of  
7 ecology, in consultation with the department and the commission. For  
8 the purpose of crediting an energy transformation project toward the  
9 standard in subsection (1)(a) of this section, the department of  
10 ecology must establish a conversion factor of emissions reductions  
11 resulting from energy transformation projects to megawatt-hours of  
12 electricity from nonemitting electric generation that is consistent  
13 with the emission factors for unspecified electricity, or for energy  
14 transformation projects in the transportation sector, consistent with  
15 default emissions or conversion factors established by other  
16 jurisdictions for clean alternative fuels. Emissions reductions from  
17 energy transformation projects must be:

18 (a) Real, specific, identifiable, and quantifiable;

19 (b) Permanent: The department of ecology must look to other  
20 jurisdictions in setting this standard and make a reasonable  
21 determination on length of time;

22 (c) Enforceable by the state of Washington;

23 (d) Verifiable;

24 (e) Not required by another statute, rule, or other legal  
25 requirement; and

26 (f) Not reasonably assumed to occur absent investment, or if an  
27 investment has already been made, not reasonably assumed to occur  
28 absent additional funding in the near future.

29 (3) Energy transformation projects must be associated with the  
30 consumption of energy in Washington and must not create a new use of  
31 fossil fuels that results in a net increase of fossil fuel usage.

32 (4) The compliance eligibility of energy transformation projects  
33 may be scaled or prorated by an approved protocol in order to  
34 distinguish effects related to reductions in electricity usage from  
35 reductions in fossil fuel usage.

36 (5) Any compliance obligation fulfilled through an investment in  
37 an energy transformation project is eligible for use only: (a) By the  
38 electric utility that makes the investment; (b) if the investment is  
39 made by the Bonneville power administration, by electric utilities  
40 that are preference customers of the Bonneville power administration;



1 or (c) if the investment is made by a joint operating agency  
2 organized under chapter 43.52 RCW, by a member of the joint operating  
3 agency. An electric utility making an investment in partnership with  
4 another electric utility or entity may claim credit proportional to  
5 its share invested in the total project cost.

6 (6)(a) In meeting the standard under subsection (1) of this  
7 section, an electric utility must, consistent with the requirements  
8 of RCW 19.285.040, if applicable, pursue all cost-effective,  
9 reliable, and feasible conservation and efficiency resources, and  
10 demand response. In making new investments, an electric utility must,  
11 to the maximum extent feasible:

12 (i) Achieve targets at the lowest reasonable cost, considering  
13 risk;

14 (ii) Consider acquisition of existing renewable resources; and

15 (iii) In the acquisition of new resources constructed after May  
16 7, 2019, rely on renewable resources and energy storage, insofar as  
17 doing so is consistent with (a)(i) of this subsection.

18 (b) Electric utilities subject to RCW 19.285.040 must demonstrate  
19 pursuit of all conservation and efficiency resources through  
20 compliance with the requirements in RCW 19.285.040.

21 (7) An electric utility that fails to meet the requirements of  
22 this section must pay the administrative penalty established under  
23 RCW 19.405.090(1), except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

24 (8) In complying with this section, an electric utility must,  
25 consistent with the requirements of RCW 19.280.030 and 19.405.140,  
26 ensure that all customers are benefiting from the transition to clean  
27 energy: Through the equitable distribution of energy and nonenergy  
28 benefits and reduction of burdens to vulnerable populations and  
29 highly impacted communities; long-term and short-term public health  
30 and environmental benefits and reduction of costs and risks; and  
31 energy security and resiliency.

32 (9) Affected market customers must comply with the standard  
33 established under subsection (1) of this section.

34 (10) A market customer that purchases electricity exclusively  
35 from carbon-free resources and eligible renewable resources, as  
36 defined in RCW 19.285.030 as of January 1, 2019, pursuant to a  
37 special contract with an investor-owned utility approved, prior to  
38 May 7, 2019, by order of the commission is subject to the  
39 requirements of such an order and not to the standard established in  
40 this section. For purposes of interpreting any such special contract,

1 chapter 19.285 RCW, as in effect on January 1, 2019, is not, either  
2 directly or indirectly, amended or supplemented.

3 (11) To reduce costs for utility customers or avoid exceeding the  
4 cost impact limit in RCW 19.405.060(3)(a), a multistate electric  
5 utility with fewer than (~~two hundred fifty thousand~~) 250,000  
6 customers in Washington may apply the total amount of megawatt-hours  
7 of coal-fired resources eliminated from the utility's allocation of  
8 electricity before December 31, 2025, as an equivalent amount of  
9 megawatt-hours of nonemitting electric generation or electricity from  
10 renewable resources required to comply with subsection (1)(a) of this  
11 section. The utility must demonstrate that for every megawatt-hour of  
12 early action compliance credit there is a real, permanent reduction  
13 in greenhouse gas emissions in the western interconnection directly  
14 associated with that credit. A multistate electric utility must  
15 request to use early action compliance credit in its clean energy  
16 implementation plan that is submitted under RCW 19.405.060. The  
17 multistate electric utility must specify in its clean energy  
18 implementation plan the compliance years to which the early action  
19 compliance credit will apply, but in no event may the multistate  
20 electric utility use the early action compliance credits beyond 2035.  
21 The commission must establish conditions for use of early action  
22 compliance credits, including a determination of whether action  
23 constitutes early action, before the multistate electric utility's  
24 use of early action compliance credits in a clean energy  
25 implementation plan.

26 **Effective Date**

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** This act takes effect January 1, 2030.

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