

2 SSB 5674 - S AMD 138

3 By Senators Constantine and Hargrove

4 ADOPTED 03/13/01

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following  
8 findings:

9 (1) The recent consensus report of the world's climate research  
10 community has concluded that significant climate change arising from  
11 pollutants generated by human activity is already underway.

12 (2) The best available analyses by northwest climate experts now  
13 indicate a projected doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is  
14 now expected to increase the average temperature in Washington state  
15 four to seven degrees over the next fifty years.

16 (3) Such changes are likely to have major, adverse impacts on the  
17 state's environment and economy.

18 (4) The citizens of Washington state have consistently demonstrated  
19 global scientific, technological, and policy leadership.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
21 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

22 (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the Washington climate  
23 center.

24 (2) "Center" means the Washington climate center.

25 (3) "Climate change" means a change of climate attributed directly  
26 or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the  
27 global atmosphere.

28 (4) "Emissions" means the release of greenhouse gases.

29 (5) "Emitter" means the entity releasing greenhouse gases.

30 (6) "Greenhouse gases" includes carbon dioxide (CO2), methane and  
31 natural gas (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O).

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The state legislature authorizes the  
33 establishment of an independent, nonprofit organization known as the

1 Washington climate center to serve as a central clearinghouse for all  
2 climate change activities in the state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center shall be funded through grants  
4 and voluntary cash and in-kind contributions.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The activities of the center shall be  
6 directed by a board of directors appointed by the governor, for terms  
7 of four years, beginning July 1, 2001. The board shall include fifteen  
8 members as follows:

9 (a) One member from each major party of the senate as recommended  
10 by their leadership;

11 (b) One member from each major party of the house of  
12 representatives as recommended by their leadership;

13 (c) One member from the office of the commissioner of public lands;

14 (d) One member from the department of community, trade, and  
15 economic development, energy policy group;

16 (e) One member from the Washington State University energy program;

17 (f) Three members from the nonprofit, climate sector;

18 (g) Three members from the business sector; and

19 (h) Two members from the climate academic sector, one representing  
20 the University of Washington, climate impacts group.

21 (2) The board shall retain and assign staff and volunteers as the  
22 board deems necessary.

23 (3) The Washington State University energy program and the  
24 University of Washington climate impacts group may provide technical  
25 assistance and research for the center.

26 (4) A vote of a majority of the members of the board shall bind the  
27 board.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The duties of the center may include,  
29 but are not limited to:

30 (a) Determining current and projected emissions of greenhouse gases  
31 in the state;

32 (b) Collecting and sharing scientific and technological data  
33 related to climate change;

34 (c) Assisting and collecting all climate contingency planning in  
35 the state;

1 (d) Advising relevant sectors of prospective commercial  
2 opportunities;

3 (e) Studying and recommending avenues for reducing short-term and  
4 long-term greenhouse gas emissions in the state;

5 (f) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods for  
6 reducing all net greenhouse gas emissions in the state, taking into  
7 consideration the absorption of greenhouse gas emissions through carbon  
8 sequestration;

9 (g) Studying and recommending the most cost-effective methods for  
10 reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector  
11 consistent with federal law;

12 (h) Certifying the extent and degree of any mitigation projects;

13 (i) Developing adequate methods for the monitoring and verification  
14 of mitigation projects; and

15 (j) Serving as a central, independent registry available for the  
16 trading of emissions credits, if any.

17 (2) The center shall:

18 (a) Develop and publish its rules of operation, calculations, and  
19 methods;

20 (b) Accomplish any other duty assigned to it by the legislature for  
21 which adequate funding is provided; and

22 (c) Provide an annual report to the governor and legislature by  
23 December 31st regarding its operations, including the status of  
24 greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

25 (3) The center shall, within available funds, also:

26 (a) Identify key sectors within the state likely to be affected  
27 adversely by climate change;

28 (b) Examine and report the feasibility of a carbon storage program  
29 for the state by:

30 (i) Evaluating other states' and nations' attempts to establish  
31 carbon credit programs, carbon storage programs, carbon storage  
32 requirements worldwide, and methods and scientific programs that are  
33 used to implement carbon storage programs;

34 (ii) Analyzing other programs in the state of Washington, including  
35 the conservation reserve enhancement program, that could facilitate a  
36 carbon storage program and a stable carbon storage market;

37 (iii) Analyzing methods to encourage and increase appropriate  
38 carbon storage activities; and

1 (iv) Developing and preparing appropriate legislative responses and  
2 recommendations;

3 (c) Notify and convene meetings of key members of those sectors;

4 (d) Provide relevant scientific and technological information to  
5 the public and key sectors;

6 (e) Support a collaborative response to assist those sectors; and

7 (f) Assist in the creation of effective contingency planning for  
8 those sectors.

9 (4) The following agencies and programs shall work with the center  
10 to assist with the duties under this section: The department of  
11 community, trade, and economic development, the department of ecology,  
12 the department of transportation, the department of health, the  
13 department of fish and wildlife, the department of agriculture, the  
14 department of natural resources, and the Washington State University  
15 energy program.

16 (5) The board may establish task forces and technical advisory  
17 committees composed of state and local agencies, businesses, labor  
18 groups, timber industry groups, agricultural groups, nonprofit  
19 organizations, university and college programs, and interested groups  
20 and citizens as necessary to assist in the duties in this section.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) All emitters of greenhouse gases are  
22 encouraged to seek mitigation of their emissions.

23 (2) Upon a request, accompanied with adequate funding, the center  
24 may:

25 (a) Assist any emitter in selecting mitigation projects;

26 (b) Determine and certify the amount of mitigation accomplished by  
27 any mitigation project; and

28 (c) Determine what monitoring and verification standards would be  
29 useful in the evaluation of mitigation projects.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The center shall publicize successful  
31 mitigation projects and efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse  
32 gases.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
35 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
36 July 1, 2001.

