
HOUSE BILL 1520

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, Morris, Morrell, Hasegawa, and Chase

Read first time 01/22/09. Referred to Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to streamlining the implementation and coordination
2 of state energy policies and programs; adding a new chapter to Title 43
3 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is in the
6 state's best interest to pursue an aggressive sustainable energy
7 agenda. Since all new energy is the most expensive energy, it is the
8 place of government to initiate and drive policy for new energy
9 technologies that will be the most reasonable cost energy for the
10 future. The state has passed legislation in recent years that promotes
11 the use and manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, requires
12 energy efficiency and conservation, supports consumption of biofuels
13 and the growth of state biofuel feedstocks, and reduces greenhouse gas
14 emissions from new power plants and automobiles. These policies are
15 pursued with the intent of protecting and enhancing Washington's
16 economy and future.

17 Various state agencies and institutions have been designated to
18 execute sustainable energy policies and programs. These agencies
19 include the energy policy division of the department of community,

1 trade, and economic development, Washington State University's energy
2 extension program, the utilities and transportation commission, the
3 department of general administration, the department of agriculture,
4 and the department of ecology. Additionally, the legislature and
5 executive agencies have established other sustainable energy
6 initiatives such as the energy freedom fund and the biofuels advisory
7 committee, respectively. The legislature finds that it may be
8 necessary in the future to establish additional sustainable energy
9 programs and initiatives.

10 The legislature finds that the implementation of Washington's
11 sustainable energy agenda is being impeded due to the fragmented
12 division of responsibilities among these state-based energy agencies
13 and institutions and the lack of a central coordinating agency that
14 ensures cooperation and the execution of a strategic plan.

15 The legislature intends to centralize and integrate state energy
16 programs and certain regulatory functions that are currently spread
17 throughout state government into one central office called the
18 sustainable energy office. In centralizing and integrating state
19 energy programs, the legislature intends to ensure staffing resources
20 are allocated in the most efficient and effective manner possible,
21 eliminate the duplication of services, and ensure the execution of
22 policies adopted by the legislature.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A sustainable energy office is created. The
24 office shall be vested with all powers and duties established or
25 transferred to it under this chapter and such other powers and duties
26 as may be authorized by law.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The executive head of the sustainable energy
28 office is the director. The director of the office shall be appointed
29 by the governor.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The director of the sustainable energy
31 office shall supervise and administer the activities of the office and
32 shall advise the governor and the legislature with respect to
33 sustainable energy matters affecting the state.

34 (2) The director shall develop a sustainable energy strategy to
35 drive Washington's sustainable energy goals.

1 (3) The director shall oversee the development of a sustainable
2 energy work plan in consultation with the sustainable energy work group
3 to carry out the goals established in the sustainable energy strategy.
4 The work plan shall provide actions:

5 (a) To ensure state staffing resources are allocated in the most
6 efficient and effective manner possible to accomplish the strategic
7 plan;

8 (b) To eliminate the duplication of services;

9 (c) To ensure the execution of policies adopted by the legislature;
10 and

11 (d) To establish performance metrics and to regularly measure
12 progress in achieving the sustainable energy strategy.

13 (4) The director shall oversee a state agency sustainable energy
14 work group to meet no less than quarterly to coordinate activities to
15 implement the sustainable energy work plan. The work group shall
16 consist of the directors, or designees determined by the directors, of
17 the following state energy entities:

18 (a) The department of agriculture;

19 (b) The department of ecology;

20 (c) The department of general administration;

21 (d) The energy policy division of the department of community,
22 trade, and economic development;

23 (e) The utilities and transportation commission;

24 (f) Washington State University's energy extension program; and

25 (g) Any other state energy entity designated by the governor.

26 (5) In addition to other powers and duties granted to the director,
27 the director has the following powers and duties:

28 (a) Enter into contracts on behalf of the state to carry out the
29 purposes of this chapter;

30 (b) Act for the state in the initiation of or participation in any
31 intergovernmental program relative to the purpose of this chapter;

32 (c) Accept and expend gifts and grants, whether such grants be of
33 federal or other funds;

34 (d) Prepare and submit budgets for the office for executive and
35 legislative action;

36 (e) Submit recommendations for legislative actions as are deemed
37 necessary to further the purposes of this chapter;

1 (f) Delegate powers, duties, and functions as the director deems
2 necessary for efficient administration, while the director is
3 responsible for the official acts of the officers and employees of the
4 office; and

5 (g) Perform other duties as are necessary and consistent with law.

6 (6) When federal or other funds are received by the office, they
7 shall be promptly transferred to the state treasurer and thereafter
8 expended only upon the approval of the director.

9 (7) The director may request information and assistance from all
10 other agencies, departments, and officials of the state.

11 (8) The director shall, in carrying out the responsibilities of
12 office, consult with governmental officials, private groups, and
13 individuals and with officials of other states. All state agencies and
14 their officials and the officials of any political subdivision of the
15 state shall cooperate with and give such assistance to the office,
16 including the submission of requested information, to allow the office
17 to carry out its purposes under this chapter.

18 (9) The director may establish additional advisory or coordinating
19 groups with the legislature, within state government, with state and
20 other governmental units, with the private sector and nonprofit
21 entities, or in specialized subject areas as may be necessary to carry
22 out the purposes of this chapter.

23 (10) The internal affairs of the office are under the control of
24 the director in order that the director may manage the office in a
25 flexible and intelligent manner as dictated by changing contemporary
26 circumstances. Unless specifically limited by law, the director has
27 complete charge and supervisory powers over the office.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect July 1, 2010.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
30 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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