
SENATE BILL 6338

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Morton and Carrell

Read first time 01/18/12. Referred to Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying densified biomass as a renewable energy
2 source; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that much of western
5 Europe, China, Japan, and other Asian countries have chosen to use
6 renewable densified biomass as a renewable energy fuel to heat homes,
7 businesses, and other facilities in lieu of petroleum-based heating
8 systems. The legislature further finds that clean-burning, renewable
9 densified biomass will: (1) Lead our country into energy independence;
10 (2) create jobs; (3) stimulate our economy by keeping more of our money
11 circulating in the United States; (4) reduce carbon emissions from
12 fossil fuels; and (5) improve air quality in noncompliant air sheds.
13 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to have the Washington
14 State University extension energy program study and report on the use
15 of densified biomass as a renewable energy source to heat homes,
16 businesses, and other facilities.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By December 1, 2013, and within existing
18 resources, the Washington State University extension energy program

1 shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor and
2 legislature consistent with RCW 43.01.036 on the use of densified
3 biomass as a renewable energy source in lieu of using electricity,
4 natural gas, and petroleum-based fuels to heat homes, businesses, and
5 other facilities. The Washington State University extension energy
6 program shall consult with the densified biomass industry to prepare
7 its report. The report must provide the best possible projections of
8 the following:

9 (1) The amount of materials that are available and may be produced
10 to create densified biomass fuel in Washington state;

11 (2) The potential of exporting renewable densified biomass fuel as
12 a fuel source;

13 (3) The jobs that are likely to be created in Washington state from
14 manufacturing renewable densified biomass fuel and densified biomass
15 heating equipment;

16 (4) The efficiency of using renewable densified biomass fuel to
17 provide space heating as compared to other traditional forms of space
18 heating, including but not limited to natural gas, propane, heating
19 oil, and electricity, including a heat pump;

20 (5) The reduction in oil imports into Washington state if renewable
21 densified biomass is used to heat homes, businesses, and other
22 facilities;

23 (6) The amount of imported oil that may be reduced by using
24 renewable densified biomass fuel in lieu of petroleum-based fuels, such
25 as propane, for heating and electricity that is generated and used for
26 heating homes, businesses, and other facilities;

27 (7) How to accomplish the distribution of bulk renewable densified
28 biomass to homes, businesses, and other facilities using renewable
29 densified biomass-fueled heating equipment;

30 (8) The price stability of renewable densified biomass fuel as
31 compared to oil, electricity, propane, and natural gas;

32 (9) The likely environmental impacts of heating homes, businesses,
33 and other facilities with renewable densified biomass as compared to
34 petroleum-based fuels used to generate heat, natural gas, and
35 electricity. In considering electricity used to produce heat, the
36 Washington State University extension energy program shall include in
37 its calculations emissions from the electricity generating systems,
38 electricity loss in the transmission of electricity to the average end

1 user, and the heating efficiency of the electronically powered heating
2 system. Environmental impacts must include, but not be limited to,
3 comparable carbon dioxide emissions and toxic air emissions from the
4 use of renewable densified biomass as compared to the use of fossil
5 fuels; and

6 (10) Other considerations deemed appropriate by the Washington
7 State University extension energy program that should be considered in
8 using renewable densified biomass as a recognized renewable energy
9 source for heating homes, businesses, and other facilities in
10 Washington state.

11 This section expires January 1, 2013.

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