

Chapter 43.331 RCW

JOB ACT—PUBLIC FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS—ENERGY, UTILITY, AND OPERATIONAL COST SAVINGS

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RCW 43.331.040 Program administration by department of commerce, in consultation with department of enterprise services and Washington State University energy program—Definitions. (1) The department of commerce, in consultation with the department of enterprise services and the Washington State University energy program, shall administer the jobs act.

(2) The department of enterprise services must develop guidelines that are consistent with national and international energy savings performance standards for the implementation of energy savings performance contracting projects by the energy savings performance contractors by December 31, 2010.

(3) The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Cost-effectiveness" means that the present value to higher education institutions and school districts of the energy reasonably expected to be saved or produced by a facility, activity, measure, or piece of equipment over its useful life, including any compensation received from a utility or the Bonneville power administration, is greater than the net present value of the costs of implementing, maintaining, and operating such facility, activity, measure, or piece of equipment over its useful life, when discounted at the cost of public borrowing.

(b) "Energy cost savings" means savings realized in expenses for energy use and expenses associated with water, wastewater, or solid waste systems.

(c) "Energy equipment" means energy management systems and any equipment, materials, or supplies that are expected, upon installation, to reduce the energy use or energy cost of an existing building or facility, and the services associated with the equipment, materials, or supplies, including but not limited to design, engineering, financing, installation, project management, guarantees, operations, and maintenance. Reduction in energy use or energy cost may also include reductions in the use or cost of water, wastewater, or solid waste.

(d) "Energy savings performance contracting" means the process authorized by chapter 39.35C RCW by which a company contracts with a public agency to conduct energy audits and guarantee energy savings from energy efficiency.

(e) "Innovative measures" means advanced or emerging technologies, systems, or approaches that may not yet be in common

practice but improve energy efficiency, accelerate deployment, or reduce energy usage, and become widely commercially available in the future if proven successful in demonstration programs without compromising the guaranteed performance or measurable energy and operational cost savings anticipated. Examples of innovative measures include, but are not limited to, advanced energy and systems operations monitoring, diagnostics, and controls systems for buildings; novel heating, cooling, ventilation, and water heating systems; advanced windows and insulation technologies, highly efficient lighting technologies, designs, and controls; and integration of renewable energy sources into buildings, and energy savings verification technologies and solutions.

(f) "Operational cost savings" means savings realized from parts, service fees, capital renewal costs, and other measurable annual expenses to maintain and repair systems. This definition does not mean labor savings related to existing facility staff.

(g) "Public facilities" means buildings, building components, and major equipment or systems owned by public school districts and public higher education institutions. [2015 c 225 s 94; 2010 1st sp.s. c 35 s 301.]

Contingent effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 35: "This act takes effect if *Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 6143 is enacted by the legislature during the 2010 1st special session." [2010 1st sp.s. c 35 s 601.]

***Reviser's note:** Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 6143 became chapter 23, Laws of 2010 1st sp. sess.

RCW 43.331.050 Competitive grant process—Audit—Administrative fees—Reports to the legislature. (1) Within appropriations specifically provided for the purposes of this chapter, the department of commerce, in consultation with the department of enterprise services, and the Washington State University energy program shall establish a competitive process to solicit and evaluate applications from public school districts, public higher education institutions, and other state agencies. Final grant awards shall be determined by the department of commerce.

(2) Grants must be awarded in competitive rounds, based on demand and capacity, with at least five percent of each grant round awarded to small public school districts with fewer than one thousand full-time equivalent students, based on demand and capacity.

(3) Within each competitive round, projects must be weighted and prioritized based on the following criteria and in the following order:

(a) Leverage ratio: In each round, the higher the leverage ratio of nonstate funding sources to state jobs act grant, the higher the project ranking.

(b) Energy savings: In each round, the higher the energy savings, the higher the project ranking. Applicants must submit documentation that demonstrates energy and operational cost savings resulting from the installation of the energy equipment and improvements. The energy savings analysis must be performed by a licensed engineer and documentation must include but is not limited to the following:

(i) A description of the energy equipment and improvements;

(ii) A description of the energy and operational cost savings;
and

(iii) A description of the extent to which the project employs collaborative and innovative measures and encourages demonstration of new and emerging technologies with high energy savings or energy cost reductions.

(c) Expediency of expenditure: Project readiness to spend funds must be prioritized so that the legislative intent to expend funds quickly is met.

(4) Projects that do not use energy savings performance contracting must: (a) Verify energy and operational cost savings, as defined in RCW 43.331.040, for ten years or until the energy and operational costs savings pay for the project, whichever is shorter; (b) follow the department of enterprise services' energy savings performance contracting project guidelines developed pursuant to RCW 43.331.040; and (c) employ a licensed engineer for the energy audit and construction. The department of commerce may require third-party verification of savings if a project is not implemented by an energy savings performance contractor selected by the department of enterprise services through the request of qualifications process. Third-party verification must be conducted either by an energy savings performance contractor selected by the department of enterprise services through a request for qualifications, a licensed engineer specializing in energy conservation, or by a project resource conservation manager or educational service district resource conservation manager.

(5) To intensify competition, the department of commerce may only award funds to the top eighty-five percent of projects applying in a round until the department of commerce determines a final round is appropriate. Projects that do not receive a grant award in one round may reapply in subsequent rounds.

(6) To match federal grants and programs that require state matching funds and produce significantly higher efficiencies in operations and utilities, the level of innovation criteria may be increased for the purposes of weighted scoring to capture those federal dollars for selected projects that require a higher level of innovation and regional collaboration.

(7) Grant amounts awarded to each project must allow for the maximum number of projects funded with the greatest energy and cost benefit.

(8) (a) The department of commerce must use bond proceeds to pay one-half of the preliminary audit, up to five cents per square foot, if the project does not meet the school district's and higher education institution's predetermined cost-effectiveness criteria. School districts and higher education institutions must pay the other one-half of the cost of the preliminary audit if the project does not meet their predetermined cost-effectiveness criteria.

(b) The energy savings performance contractor may not charge for an investment grade audit if the project does not meet the school district's and higher education institution's predetermined cost-effectiveness criteria. School districts and higher education institutions must pay the full price of an investment grade audit if they do not proceed with a project that meets the school district's and higher education institution's predetermined cost-effectiveness criteria.

(9) The department of commerce may charge projects administrative fees and may pay the department of enterprise services and the

Washington State University energy program administration fees in an amount determined through a memorandum of understanding.

(10) The department of commerce and the department of enterprise services must submit a joint report to the appropriate committees of the legislature and the office of financial management on the timing and use of the grant funds, program administrative function, compliance with apprenticeship utilization requirements in RCW 39.04.320, compliance with prevailing wage requirements, and administration fees by the end of each fiscal year, until the funds are fully expended and all savings verification requirements are fulfilled. [2015 c 225 s 95; 2010 1st sp.s. c 35 s 302.]

Contingent effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 35: See note following RCW 43.331.040.

RCW 43.331.900 Referral to people—Spending restriction—Ballot title—2010 1st sp.s. c 35 ss 101 through 203 and 401 through 405.

(1) The secretary of state shall submit sections 101 through 203 and 401 through 405 of this act to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this state, in accordance with Article II, section 1 and Article VIII, section 3 of the state Constitution and the laws adopted to facilitate their operation.

(2) If the people ratify this act as specified under subsection (1) of this section, revenues generated shall be spent as detailed in this act.

(3) Pursuant to *RCW 29A.72.050(6), the statement of subject and concise description for the ballot title shall read: "The legislature has passed Engrossed House Bill No. 2561 (this act), concerning job creation through energy efficiency projects in school buildings. This bill would promote job creation by authorizing bonds to construct energy efficiency savings improvements to schools, including higher education buildings." [2010 1st sp.s. c 35 s 501.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 29A.72.050 was amended by 2022 c 114 s 3, changing subsection (6) to subsection (7).

Contingent effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 35: See note following RCW 43.331.040.