
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6308

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications (originally sponsored by Senators Rockefeller, Regala, Murray, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Pridemore, Oemig, Kilmer, Jacobsen, Kline, Shin, and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to climate change research, preparation, and
2 adaptation; and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) While significant efforts to reduce the
5 rate of climate change are underway in the state and throughout the
6 nation, significant adverse impacts are likely inevitable over the
7 course of the twenty-first century. Therefore it is in the public
8 interest for Washington state to be actively working to both mitigate
9 the effects of climate change as well as to prepare for the impacts
10 that cannot be avoided. While the legislature in chapter 307, Laws of
11 2007, has adopted goals for reducing emissions of climate change gases,
12 and work is underway to establish a comprehensive program to achieve
13 these goals, there is not yet a comprehensive program to coordinate the
14 research and information being compiled on localized impacts of climate
15 change, and to assist local and state entities and the public generally
16 in preparing for and adapting to such impacts.

17 (2) It is the purpose of this chapter to authorize a study that
18 will recommend the elements of such a comprehensive program of climate
19 change research, preparation, and adaptation.

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

3 (1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

4 (2) "Institute" means the joint institute for the study of the
5 atmosphere and ocean, within the University of Washington.

6 (3) "Work groups" means preparation and adaptation working groups
7 created under executive order 07-02 and other participants who may be
8 added under section 4 of this act. All members of work groups must
9 live in the state of Washington.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Not later than November 1, 2008, the
11 department shall prepare a report and deliver it to the governor and
12 the climate-related policy and fiscal committees of the senate and
13 house of representatives. The report must contain the department's
14 recommendations for the creation of a comprehensive climate change
15 research, preparation, and adaptation program.

16 (2) The department shall develop the report required in subsection
17 (1) of this section using the work groups efforts on public health,
18 agriculture, the coast line, forestry, and infrastructure as a
19 foundation, and include recommendations for specific steps to prepare
20 for impacts to water resources and management, flood response,
21 protection of ecosystems, and biodiversity, including the protection of
22 threatened or endangered species and species of economic importance to
23 the state.

24 (3) The report must include recommendations for at least the
25 following:

26 (a) Criteria to establish state-funded research priorities;

27 (b) Methods to ensure data and information systems will be most
28 effective for and accessible to relevant planning jurisdictions and the
29 public generally;

30 (c) Delivering technical and financial assistance to and
31 integrating data and analyses into state and local programs and
32 planning;

33 (d) Funding that may be needed by local, regional, state, and other
34 planning jurisdictions to incorporate climate change into their
35 planning processes, including requirements for such integration when
36 receiving state funding;

1 (e) The range of time horizons and geographic scales to be
2 addressed in climate impact research and analysis;

3 (f) Phasing in implementation of the program in the 2009-2011
4 biennium, including funding and legislation necessary to implement each
5 component of this initial phase; and

6 (g) Any specific projects or pilot projects that the work groups
7 and the institute have identified to ensure the state is adequately
8 prepared for the impacts of climate change and the necessary funding
9 for those projects or pilot projects.

10 (4) In developing the report required under subsection (1) of this
11 section, the department shall, in consultation with the institute, use
12 the comprehensive state climate change assessment prepared under
13 section 404, chapter 348, Laws of 2007, and the reports prepared by the
14 work groups. The department shall make both reports and the report
15 required under subsection (1) of this section available to the public
16 and ensure they are available on the department's web site or otherwise
17 widely disseminated.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In preparing the report required under
19 section 3 of this act, the department shall consider if other private,
20 public, or tribal interests who may be impacted by the recommendations
21 of the report or by the specific impacts of climate change being
22 considered by the work groups are represented and shall invite those
23 interests to participate. The department shall include in its report
24 a list of interests represented in the work groups and which interests
25 were invited but did not participate. In order to allow for broad
26 participation by all areas of the state, the department shall hold as
27 many meetings as possible by teleconference, video conference, or other
28 means that do not require travel. In the event that meetings are held
29 so that interested parties may attend in person, the meetings shall
30 alternate between eastern and western Washington.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The office of Washington state
32 climatologist is created within the University of Washington.

33 (2) The office of Washington state climatologist consists of the
34 director of the office, who is the state climatologist, and appropriate
35 staff and administrative support as necessary to carry out the powers
36 and duties of the office as enumerated in this section.

1 (3) The director of the office must be appointed by the president
2 of the University of Washington.

3 (4) The office of Washington state climatologist has the following
4 powers and duties:

5 (a) To serve as a credible and expert source of climate and weather
6 information for state and local decision makers and agencies working on
7 drought, flooding, climate change, and other related issues;

8 (b) To gather and disseminate, and where practicable archive, in
9 the most cost-effective manner possible, all climate and weather
10 information that is or could be of value to policy and decision makers
11 in the state;

12 (c) To act as the representative of the state in all climatological
13 and meteorological matters, both within and outside of the state, when
14 requested by the legislative or executive branches of the state
15 government;

16 (d) To prepare, publish, and disseminate climate summaries for
17 those individuals, agencies, and organizations whose activities are
18 related to the welfare of the state and are affected by climate and
19 weather;

20 (e) To supply critical information for drought preparedness and
21 emergency response as needed to implement the state's drought
22 contingency response plan maintained by the department under RCW
23 43.83B.410, and to serve as a member of the state's drought water
24 supply and emergency response committees as may be formed in response
25 to a drought event;

26 (f) To conduct and report on studies of climate and weather
27 phenomena of significant socioeconomic importance to the state; and

28 (g) To evaluate the significance of natural and man-made changes in
29 important features of the climate affecting the state, and to report
30 this information to those agencies and organizations in the state who
31 are likely to be affected by these changes.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) Sections 1 through 5 of this act
33 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

34 (2) If chapter --- ([House] [Senate] Bill No. ---), Laws of 2008
35 becomes law and is codified as a new chapter in Title 43 RCW, sections

1 1 through 5 of this act shall be codified in the same new chapter in
2 Title 43 RCW.

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