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**HOUSE BILL 1584**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Barnard, Fitzgibbon, Dye, Donaghy, Lekanoff, Slatter, Ybarra, Couture, Fey, Ryu, and Riccelli

1 AN ACT Relating to planning for advanced nuclear reactor  
2 technology in Washington; amending RCW 43.21F.088; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature reaffirms that  
6 Washington needs to implement a comprehensive energy planning process  
7 and that the state energy strategy developed and periodically  
8 reviewed by the department of commerce is an important element of  
9 that planning responsibility. The legislature has declared that a  
10 successful state energy strategy must balance three goals:  
11 Maintaining competitive energy prices that are fair and reasonable  
12 for consumers and businesses and support our state's continued  
13 economic success; increasing competitiveness by fostering a clean  
14 energy economy and jobs through business and workforce development;  
15 and meeting the state's obligations to reduce greenhouse gas  
16 emissions.

17 (2) The legislature finds that planning for the development of  
18 advanced nuclear reactor technology aligns with the legislature's  
19 goals for a comprehensive energy strategy. Therefore, the legislature  
20 intends for the state energy strategy to include consideration of

1 measures that will promote the development of advanced nuclear  
2 reactor technology in Washington.

3 (3) The legislature further finds that advanced nuclear reactor  
4 technology is a nonemitting electricity generation resource that can  
5 help Washington meet its long-term emissions reduction goals for the  
6 electricity sector. The field of nuclear technology is rapidly  
7 evolving as new innovations are made, and the legislature concludes  
8 that the state should examine the various ways advanced nuclear  
9 reactor technology will support the state's energy infrastructure and  
10 economy in the future.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.21F.088 and 2010 c 271 s 403 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The state shall use the following principles to guide  
14 development and implementation of the state's energy strategy and to  
15 meet the goals of RCW 43.21F.010:

16 (a) Pursue all cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation  
17 as the state's preferred energy resource, consistent with state law;

18 (b) Ensure that the state's energy system meets the health,  
19 welfare, and economic needs of its citizens with particular emphasis  
20 on meeting the needs of low-income and vulnerable populations;

21 (c) Maintain and enhance economic competitiveness by ensuring an  
22 affordable and reliable supply of energy resources and by supporting  
23 clean energy technology innovation, access to clean energy markets  
24 worldwide, and clean energy business and workforce development;

25 (d) Reduce dependence on fossil fuel energy sources through  
26 improved efficiency and development of cleaner energy sources, such  
27 as bioenergy, low carbon energy sources, advanced nuclear reactor  
28 technology, and natural gas, and leveraging the indigenous resources  
29 of the state for the production of clean energy;

30 (e) Improve efficiency of transportation energy use through  
31 advances in vehicle technology, increased system efficiencies,  
32 development of electricity, biofuels, and other clean fuels, and  
33 regional transportation planning to improve transportation choices;

34 (f) Meet the state's statutory greenhouse gas limits and  
35 environmental requirements as the state develops and uses energy  
36 resources;

37 (g) Build on the advantage provided by the state's clean regional  
38 electrical grid by expanding and integrating additional carbon-free

1 and carbon-neutral generation, and improving the transmission  
2 capacity serving the state;

3 (h) Make state government a model for energy efficiency, use of  
4 clean and renewable energy, and greenhouse gas-neutral operations;  
5 and

6 (i) Maintain and enhance our state's existing energy  
7 infrastructure.

8 (2) The department shall:

9 (a) During energy shortage emergencies, give priority in the  
10 allocation of energy resources to maintaining the public health,  
11 safety, and welfare of the state's citizens and industry in order to  
12 minimize adverse impacts on their physical, social, and economic  
13 well-being;

14 (b) Develop and disseminate impartial and objective energy  
15 information and analysis, while taking full advantage of the  
16 capabilities of the state's institutions of higher education,  
17 national laboratory, and other organizations with relevant expertise  
18 and analytical capabilities;

19 (c) Actively seek to maximize federal and other nonstate funding  
20 and support to the state for energy efficiency, renewable energy,  
21 emerging energy technologies, and other activities of benefit to the  
22 state's overall energy future; and

23 (d) Monitor the actions of all agencies of the state for  
24 consistent implementation of the state's energy policy including  
25 applicable statutory policies and goals relating to energy supply and  
26 use.

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