
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2528

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Ramos, DeBolt, Chapman, Boehnke, Blake, Fitzgibbon, Tharinger, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to recognizing the contributions of the state's
2 forest products sector as part of the state's global climate
3 response; amending RCW 70.235.005; adding a new section to chapter
4 70.235 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 89.08 RCW; and creating a
5 new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
8 intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) released a report in
9 2019 entitled "IPCC special report on climate change,
10 desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food
11 security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems" that
12 provides guidance relating to how natural and working lands can be
13 utilized to assist with a global climate response strategy. In
14 addition, the food and agricultural organization of the United
15 Nations issued a report in 2016 entitled "forestry for a low-carbon
16 future" with specific recommendations for integrating forests and
17 wood products in climate change strategies. Recommendations from
18 these reports are critical as Washington develops its own climate
19 response and charts how the state can use its forestland base and
20 vibrant forest products sector as part of its contribution to the
21 global climate response.

1 (2) The legislature further finds that the 2019 intergovernmental
2 panel on climate change report identifies several measures where
3 sustainable forest management and forest products may be utilized to
4 maintain and enhance carbon sequestration. These include
5 afforestation and reforestation to increase the carbon sequestration
6 potential of trees by expanding the forestland base, reducing
7 emissions from land conversion to nonforest uses, increasing forest
8 resiliency to reduce the risk of carbon releases from disturbances
9 such as wildfire, pest infestation, and disease, and applying
10 sustainable forest management techniques to address the natural sink
11 saturation by maintaining or enhancing forest carbon stocks and
12 maintaining forest carbon sinks, including through the transference
13 of carbon to wood products.

14 (3) The legislature further finds that the food and agricultural
15 organization of the United Nations reports similar recommendations,
16 with a focus on forest management tools that increases the carbon
17 density in forests, increases carbon storage out of the forest in
18 harvested wood products, utilizes wood energy, and suppresses forest
19 disturbances from fire, pests, and disease.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.235.005 and 2008 c 14 s 1 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (1) The legislature finds that Washington has long been a
23 national and international leader on energy conservation and
24 environmental stewardship, including air quality protection,
25 renewable energy development and generation, emission standards for
26 fossil-fuel based energy generation, energy efficiency programs,
27 natural resource conservation, sustainable forestry and the
28 production of forest products, vehicle emission standards, and the
29 use of biofuels. Washington is also unique among most states in that
30 in addition to its commitment to reduce emissions of greenhouse
31 gases, it has established goals to grow the clean energy sector and
32 reduce the state's expenditures on imported fuels.

33 (2) The legislature further finds that Washington should continue
34 its leadership on climate change policy by creating accountability
35 for achieving the emission reductions established in RCW 70.235.020,
36 participating in the design of a regional multisector market-based
37 system to help achieve those emission reductions, assessing other
38 market strategies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases,
39 maintaining and enhancing the state's ability to continue to

1 sequester carbon through forest products, and ensuring the state has
2 a well trained workforce for our clean energy future.

3 (3) It is the intent of the legislature that the state will: (a)
4 Limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gas consistent with the
5 emission reductions established in RCW 70.235.020; (b) minimize the
6 potential to export pollution, jobs, and economic opportunities;
7 ~~((and))~~ (c) support industry sectors that act as sequesterers of
8 carbon; and (d) reduce emissions at the lowest cost to Washington's
9 economy, consumers, and businesses.

10 ~~(4) ((In the event the state elects to participate in a regional~~
11 ~~multisector market-based system, it is the intent of the legislature~~
12 ~~that the system will become effective by January 1, 2012, after~~
13 ~~authority is provided to the department for its implementation. By~~
14 ~~acting now, Washington businesses and citizens will have adequate~~
15 ~~time and opportunities to be well positioned to take advantage of the~~
16 ~~low-carbon economy and to make necessary investments in low-carbon~~
17 ~~technology.~~

18 ~~(5))~~ It is also the intent of the legislature that the regional
19 multisector market-based system recognize Washington's unique
20 emissions and sequestration portfolio, including the ~~((state's))~~: (a)
21 State's hydroelectric system~~((, the))~~; (b) opportunities presented by
22 Washington's abundant forest resources and the associated forest
23 products industry, and aquatic and agriculture land~~((,))~~; and ~~((the))~~
24 (c) state's leadership in energy efficiency and the actions it has
25 already taken that have reduced its generation of greenhouse gas
26 emissions and that entities receive appropriate credit for early
27 actions to reduce greenhouse gases.

28 ~~((+6))~~ (5) If any revenues that accrue to the state are created
29 by a market system, they must be used to further the state's efforts
30 to achieve the goals established in RCW 70.235.020, address the
31 impacts of global warming on affected habitats, species, and
32 communities, promote and invest in industry sectors that act as
33 sequesterers of carbon, and increase investment in the clean energy
34 economy particularly for communities and workers that have suffered
35 from heavy job losses and chronic unemployment and underemployment.

36 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 70.235
37 RCW to read as follows:

38 (1)(a) Washington's existing forest products sector, including
39 public and private working forests and the harvesting,

1 transportation, and manufacturing sectors that enable working forests
2 to remain on the land and the state to be a global supplier of forest
3 products, is one of the state's only industrial sectors that
4 currently operates as a significant net sequesterer of carbon. This
5 value, which is only provided through the maintenance of an intact
6 and synergistic industrial sector, is an integral component of the
7 state's contribution to the global climate response and efforts to
8 mitigate carbon emissions.

9 (b) Satisfying the goals set forth in RCW 70.235.020 requires
10 supporting, throughout all of state government, the economic vitality
11 of the sustainable forest products sector and other business sectors
12 capable of sequestering and storing carbon. This includes support for
13 working forests of all sizes, ownerships, and management objectives,
14 and the necessary manufacturing sectors that support the
15 transformation of stored carbon into long-lived forest products while
16 maintaining and enhancing the carbon mitigation benefits of the
17 forest sector, sustaining rural communities, and providing for
18 wildlife, clean water, and biodiversity such as provided in chapter
19 76.09 RCW. Support for the forest sector also ensures the state's
20 working forests avoid catastrophic wildfire and other similar
21 disturbances and avoid deforestation to remain on the landscape in
22 the face of unprecedented conversion pressures.

23 (c) It is the policy of the state to support the synergistic
24 forest products sector. This includes landowners, mills, bioenergy,
25 pulp and paper, and the related harvesting and transportation
26 infrastructure that is necessary for forestland owners to continue
27 the rotational cycle of carbon capture and sequestration in growing
28 trees and allows forest products manufacturers to store the captured
29 carbon in wood products and maintain and enhance the forest sector's
30 role in mitigating a significant percentage of the state's carbon
31 emissions while providing other environmental and social benefits and
32 supporting a strong rural economic base. Policies that support
33 working forests also allow Washington to have participants in current
34 and future vibrant private carbon transaction markets, strengthening
35 the state's role as a valuable contributor to the global carbon
36 response while supporting one of its largest manufacturing sectors.

37 (d) It is further the policy of the state to utilize carbon
38 accounting land use, land use change, and forestry reporting
39 principles consistent with established reporting guidelines, such as

1 those used by the intergovernmental panel on climate change and the
2 United States' national greenhouse gas reporting inventories.

3 (2) Any state carbon programs must support the policies stated in
4 this section and recognize the forest products industry's
5 contribution to the state's climate response.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 89.08
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The forest carbon reforestation and afforestation account is
9 created in the custody of the state treasurer. All specified state
10 funding must be deposited into the account, including appropriations
11 from the general fund, the capital budget, and any specified revenues
12 from other sources, including policies that establish a price on
13 carbon or related federal grant programs. The commission may also
14 deposit into the account any grants, gifts, or donations to the state
15 for purposes consistent with the allowable uses of the account.
16 Expenditures from the account may be used only for commission
17 administrative costs and grants consistent with this section. Only
18 the executive director of the commission or the executive director's
19 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is
20 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
21 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

22 (2) The commission shall use all moneys in the forest carbon
23 reforestation and afforestation account, less reasonable
24 administrative overhead costs, as grants to any private landowner,
25 organization that works with private landowners, nonprofit
26 organization, local government, Indian tribe, or state agency to
27 advance the state's carbon sequestration goals outlined in section 3
28 of this act. All grant awards must be the result of a competitive
29 process, designed by the commission, that seeks to leverage the
30 carbon sequestration and storage benefits of the investment.
31 Allowable grant project types include funding:

32 (a) For reforestation of forestlands after a wildfire or other
33 disaster for which the landowner was not responsible;

34 (b) For afforestation projects to return fallow land capable of
35 supporting trees to forestlands;

36 (c) To plant sustainable forested buffers and remove nonnative
37 invasive species along otherwise nonforested fish bearing streams;
38 and

39 (d) For urban forest restoration.

1 (3) In addition to administrative costs and grants as provided in
2 this section, the commission may also use funds in the forest carbon
3 reforestation and afforestation account to conduct an opportunity
4 analysis of land in Washington to determine how many acres of
5 deforested land could be returned to forestlands without decreasing
6 food production.

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