
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2611

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Innovation, Technology & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Duerr, Mead, Ramel, Fitzgibbon, Gregerson, and Pollet)

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting the development of the Washington
2 state bioeconomy; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that expanding
5 the use of renewable biological resources as feedstock in the
6 production of fuels, chemicals, and other materials is an important
7 part of developing a sustainable economy throughout Washington.

8 (2) The legislature further finds that the expansion of a strong,
9 circular bioeconomy throughout the state would provide new jobs at
10 local and regional levels, create opportunities to grow new bio-based
11 product markets, help produce large volumes of low carbon fuels, and
12 diversify sources of energy in Washington.

13 (3) The legislature further finds that Washington state contains
14 ideal conditions to develop a robust bioeconomy due to its well-
15 trained workforce and manufacturing experience, available land base
16 for growing feedstock, excellent infrastructure, and access to
17 domestic and global markets.

18 (4) Therefore, the legislature intends to direct a study to
19 identify opportunities, and to develop processes, systems, and
20 policies, that promote the expansion of a strong, circular bioeconomy
21 throughout Washington state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The University of Washington is
2 directed to conduct a study to identify opportunities to further
3 develop Washington state's bioeconomy to expand the use of renewable
4 biological resources in the production of fuels, chemicals, and other
5 materials. The study, at minimum, must:

6 (a) Develop, to the extent feasible, new processes that use
7 biomass resources to produce high value chemicals, high value
8 products, and high volume fuels in Washington, including the
9 development of processes to fractionate feedstocks, such as woody
10 biomass, and investigate the usage of hardwood forest slash, mill
11 residuals, and other residuals from existing sustainably managed
12 forests;

13 (b) Develop, to the extent feasible, biomass production systems
14 that provide effective water treatments in Washington, with an
15 emphasis on cleaning municipal treatment wastewater and roadway
16 stormwater;

17 (c) Identify and assess optimal locations throughout Washington
18 state to site a biorefinery factory; and

19 (d) Identify and analyze policy options that can promote the
20 further development of a circular bioeconomy in Washington.

21 (2) By July 1, 2023, the results of the study required in
22 subsection (1) of this section must be submitted in a report to the
23 appropriate committees of the legislature consistent with the
24 requirements of RCW 43.01.036.

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