
HOUSE BILL 2966

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representative Muri

1 AN ACT Relating to electrification of transportation
2 infrastructure; amending RCW 35.92.355; adding a new section to
3 chapter 35.92 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 54.16 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that programs for
7 the electrification of transportation allow electric utilities to
8 optimize the use of electric grid infrastructure, to better manage
9 electric loads, and to better manage the integration of variable
10 renewable energy and energy storage resources. These programs provide
11 cost-effective energy efficiency due to the benefits they provide in
12 energy savings, more efficient use of energy resources, and more
13 cost-efficient use of electric distribution system resources and
14 infrastructure that can result in cost savings and benefits for all
15 ratepayers.

16 The legislature further finds that as with traditional energy
17 conservation programs that provide financing for more efficient use
18 of energy in existing buildings and structures, programs that
19 directly provide for electrification of transportation or that
20 provide for financing of such electrification can enable utilities

1 and their customers to achieve more efficient use of energy resources
2 and electric distribution system and infrastructure.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.92.355 and 1993 c 204 s 5 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The conservation of energy in all forms and by every possible
6 means is found and declared to be a public purpose of highest
7 priority. The legislature further finds and declares that all
8 municipal corporations, quasi municipal corporations, and other
9 political subdivisions of the state which are engaged in the
10 generation, sale, or distribution of energy should be granted the
11 authority to develop and carry out programs which will conserve
12 resources, reduce waste, and encourage more efficient use of energy
13 and energy infrastructure by consumers.

14 In order to establish the most effective statewide program for
15 energy conservation and energy infrastructure efficiency, the
16 legislature hereby encourages any company, corporation, or
17 association engaged in selling or furnishing utility services to
18 assist their customers in the acquisition and installation of
19 materials and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the
20 conservation ((~~or~~)) and more efficient use of energy and energy
21 infrastructure. The use of appropriate tree plantings for energy
22 conservation is encouraged as part of these programs.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 35.92
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) Any city or town engaged in the generation, sale, or
26 distribution of energy is authorized, within limits established by
27 the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist its customers
28 in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and
29 equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the electrification of
30 transportation, and to offer programs, services, or investment in the
31 electrification of transportation for its customers that benefit all
32 the ratepayers, pursuant to an electrification of transportation plan
33 adopted by the city or town if the cost, program, service, or
34 investment demonstrates a benefit to the ratepayers.

35 (2) Except where otherwise authorized, this assistance is limited
36 to:

37 (a) Providing an inspection of the structure or equipment, either
38 directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to

1 determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing
2 and installing materials and equipment for which financial assistance
3 will be approved;

4 (b) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the
5 materials and equipment within or in close proximity to the service
6 area of the city or town. Each of the businesses must have requested
7 to be included on the list and must have the ability to provide the
8 products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the materials in
9 accordance with the prevailing national standards;

10 (c) Arranging to have approved materials and equipment installed
11 by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the
12 residential structure and verifying the installation; and

13 (d) Arranging or providing financing or incentives for the
14 purchase and installation of approved materials and equipment. The
15 materials and equipment must be purchased from a private business and
16 must be installed by a private business or the owner.

17 (3) If financing is provided in the form of a loan, pay back must
18 be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed
19 either together with use charges or separately. Loans may not exceed
20 two hundred forty months in length.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 54.16
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) A district is authorized, within limits established by the
24 Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist its customers in
25 financing the acquisition and installation of materials and
26 equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the electrification of
27 transportation, and to offer programs, services, or investment in the
28 electrification of transportation for its customers that benefit all
29 ratepayers, pursuant to an electrification of transportation plan
30 adopted by the district if the cost, program, service, or investment
31 demonstrates a benefit to the ratepayers.

32 (2) Except where otherwise authorized, this assistance is limited
33 to:

34 (a) Providing an inspection of the structure or equipment either
35 directly or through one more inspectors under contract, to determine
36 and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and
37 installing materials and equipment for which financial assistance
38 will be approved;

1 (b) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the
2 materials and equipment within or in close proximity to the service
3 area of the district. Each of the businesses must have requested to
4 be included on the list and must have the ability to provide the
5 products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the materials in
6 accordance with the prevailing national standard;

7 (c) Arranging to have approved materials and equipment installed
8 by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the
9 residential structure and verifying the installation; and

10 (d) Arrange or providing financing or incentives for the purchase
11 and installation of approved materials and equipment. The materials
12 and equipment must be purchased from a private business and must be
13 installed by a private business or the owner.

14 (3) If financing is provided in the form of a loan, pay back must
15 be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed
16 either together with use charges or separately. Loans may not exceed
17 two hundred forty months in length.

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