
SENATE BILL 6135

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon and Carlyle

Prefiled 01/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to system reliability under the clean energy
2 transformation act; and amending RCW 19.405.080.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.405.080 and 2019 c 288 s 8 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 By January 1, 2024, and at least every four years thereafter,
7 except as provided in subsection (2)(c) of this section, and in
8 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department must submit a report to
9 the legislature. The report must include the following:

10 (1) A review of the standards described in RCW 19.405.030 through
11 19.405.050 focused on technologies, forecasts, and existing
12 transmission, and an evaluation of safety, environmental and public
13 safety protection, affordability, and system reliability.

14 (2)(a) An evaluation, produced in consultation with the
15 commission, electric utilities, transmission operators in Washington,
16 the reliability coordinator for electric utilities, any regional
17 planning organization serving electric utilities, public interest and
18 environmental organizations, and the regional entity for the western
19 interconnection identifying the potential benefits, impacts, and
20 risks on system reliability associated with achieving the standards
21 described in RCW 19.405.040 and 19.405.050. The evaluation must

1 assess whether electric utilities have sufficient electric generation
2 resources to meet forecasted retail electric load in addition to
3 adequate transmission capability to implement RCW 19.405.030 through
4 19.405.050 without: (i) Violating mandatory and enforceable
5 reliability standards of the North American electric reliability
6 corporation; (ii) violating prudent utility practice for assuring
7 resource adequacy; or (iii) compromising the power quality or
8 integrity of the electricity system. Subject to funding appropriated
9 for this purpose, the department must consult with a national
10 laboratory with expertise in grid reliability, security, and
11 resilience. If the evaluation determines standards in RCW 19.405.040
12 and 19.405.050 cannot be met without triggering (a)(i), (ii), or
13 (iii) of this subsection, the department must provide specific
14 recommendations for legislative action.

15 (b) The evaluation should assess the anticipated financial costs
16 and benefits of investments necessary to correct those deficiencies
17 at the lowest reasonable costs as identified by electric utilities,
18 transmission operators in Washington, the regional entity for the
19 western interconnection, or any regional planning organization
20 serving electric utilities. The assessment of these investments in
21 the report is not deemed to be approval of such investments for rate
22 recovery by any authorizing entity.

23 (c) The department must submit the evaluation of system
24 reliability under this subsection by January 1, 2022, two years prior
25 to the full report required under this section. Additionally, updates
26 reflecting changing forecasts for electric generation resources,
27 retail electric load, and transmission capability must be provided
28 every four years beginning January 1, 2026.

29 (3) An evaluation identifying the nature of any anticipated
30 financial costs and benefits to electric utilities, including
31 customer rate impacts and benefits including, but not limited to:

32 (a) Greenhouse gas emissions of electric utilities;

33 (b) The allocation of risk between customers and electric
34 utilities;

35 (c) The allocation of financial costs among electric utilities in
36 the state and whether retail electric customers are equitably bearing
37 the financial costs of implementing RCW 19.405.030 through
38 19.405.050;

39 (d) The timing of cost recovery for electricity generated by
40 nonemitting electric generation or renewable resources;

- 1 (e) The resource procurement process of electric utilities; and
2 (f) The barriers to, and benefits of, implementing RCW 19.405.040
3 and 19.405.050.
- 4 (4) An evaluation of new or emerging technologies that could be
5 considered to be a renewable resource.
- 6 (5) An assessment of the impacts of RCW 19.405.030 through
7 19.405.050 on middle-income families, small businesses, and
8 manufacturers in Washington.

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