
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6542

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY EFFICIENT ECONOMY.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Department of Public Works (DPW) to establish a three-year pilot program to increase energy efficiency in state- and municipal-owned buildings. It must do so in consultation with the departments of Environmental Protection and Public Utility Control. The bill specifies how DPW must administer the program.

DPW must use (1) moneys from the Energy Conservation and Load Management Fund in consultation with the Energy Conservation Management Board, and (2) any other available funding for the program. DPW may adopt regulations to implement the program.

DPW must, within available appropriations, provide municipalities (1) lists of auditors and contractors chosen for the program and (2) technical assistance in developing requests for proposals (RFPs); reviewing proposals; and developing protocols for project monitoring, data collection, and reporting savings after the energy efficiency measures have been installed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

ENERGY-SAVING MEASURES

Under the bill, energy-saving measures are improvements to a facility or other energy-consuming system designed to (1) reduce energy or water consumption and operating costs and (2) increase the operating efficiency of facilities or systems. Measures include:

1. replacement or modification of lighting and electrical components, fixtures, or systems;

2. heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system modifications or replacements;
3. water-conserving fixtures, appliances, and equipment or the substitution of fixtures, appliances, and equipment that do not use water;
4. water-conserving landscape irrigation equipment;
5. changes in operation and maintenance practices;
6. replacement or modification of windows and doors;
7. installation or addition of insulation;
8. automated or computerized energy control systems;
9. installation of cogeneration systems that produce steam or forms of energy, such as heat or electricity, for use primarily within a building or complex of buildings; and
10. installation of Class I renewable energy or solar thermal systems (the former include such things as photovoltaic or wind energy systems and the latter include solar water heating systems).

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The DPW commissioner must establish criteria by October 1, 2011 for energy auditors and contractors to participate in the program. By December 1, 2011, DPW must compile an inventory of buildings to target with the program. By January 1, 2012, DPW must create a list of qualified auditors to conduct energy audits on each building identified in the inventory within three years.

Within 30 days of receiving the energy audit for a building, DPW must (1) review the auditor's recommendations and the projected cost savings for the building and (2) issue an RFP for cost-effective, energy-saving measures for the building.

DPW must choose one contractor responding to the RFP to

implement the measures. In selecting the contractor, DPW must consider (1) overall project experience and qualifications; (2) management capability; (3) financial stability; (4) experience with projects of similar size and scope; and (5) other factors DPW determines to be relevant and appropriate that relate to the ability to perform the project, including the number of other target buildings the contractor has been selected to implement such measures and the proximity of the contractor's employees to the target building.

PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION

DPW must monitor the work of the auditors and contractors and report to the Government Administration and Elections, Energy and Technology, and Environment committees on the results of the program within one year after it starts and every quarter thereafter until the program ends. The reports must include the results of customer satisfaction surveys developed by DPW, summaries of all energy savings measures implemented during the preceding 12 months in target buildings, and year-over-year energy savings.

When the program ends, DPW must report its recommendation to the three committees regarding establishing of a similar program for all individuals and businesses in the state.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/22/2011)