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SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5093

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Hewitt, Mullet, and Sheldon)

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the nuclear energy education program;  
2 and adding a new chapter to Title 80 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Modern life demands affordable and reliable energy and there  
6 is increasing interest in energy that is free of carbon emissions and  
7 free from historical price volatility associated with other energy  
8 resources;

9 (2) Nuclear energy is the leading and most reliable source of  
10 carbon-free energy in the nation and plays a crucial role in  
11 Washington's carbon-free energy mix;

12 (3) The nuclear energy industry, with a rich tradition of  
13 employing military veterans, provides Washington with thousands of  
14 quality, high paying jobs grounded in unparalleled scientific and  
15 technical expertise; and

16 (4) Because today's Washington students are the foundation for  
17 providing the diverse and highly skilled workforce for the several  
18 sectors employing nuclear energy, it is in the public interest to  
19 provide students the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of the  
20 fundamentals of the nuclear sciences, including physics, chemistry,  
21 mathematics, and related disciplines.

1        NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 2.**        (1) Consistent with the legislative  
2 findings in section 1 of this act, the legislature establishes the  
3 nuclear energy education program. The program is intended to provide  
4 students in grades eight through twelve the opportunity to  
5 participate in classroom presentations and instruction regarding the  
6 science and technology of the nuclear energy field.

7        (2) The program shall be administered by the director of the  
8 Washington State University extension energy program. Under the  
9 program, the director shall award grants on a competitive basis to  
10 nuclear education ambassadors and to eligible science teachers  
11 attending qualified workshops on nuclear energy.

12        (3)(a) Grants for nuclear education ambassadors are to be used to  
13 create a pool of persons who can introduce students to nuclear  
14 science and technology through classroom visits.

15        (b) Grants for science teachers are to be used to assist teachers  
16 in attending qualifying workshops where they can meet nuclear  
17 professionals and learn about experiments and demonstrations suitable  
18 for their classrooms.

19        (4) In reviewing grant applications, scoring must be based on an  
20 evaluation of all application materials including narratives, support  
21 letters, supplementary materials, and other materials that may be  
22 requested of applicants. The director may consult with the American  
23 nuclear society or similar organizations and interested businesses  
24 when selecting applicants. Grants may be awarded for the full amount  
25 of a request or for a portion of a request. Priority must be given to  
26 applications where the applicant has demonstrated a matching donation  
27 from a private source.

28        (5) Applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

29        (a) A nuclear ambassador must exemplify the skills, motivation,  
30 and commitment to safety that is demanded in the nuclear industry. In  
31 addition, an ambassador must: (i) Be a resident of Washington; (ii)  
32 complete a background check as required by school district policy  
33 where the ambassador chooses to serve; and (iii) use materials  
34 prepared by the American nuclear society, or similar organizations,  
35 when possible; and

36        (b) An eligible science teacher must be: (i) Endorsed to teach  
37 one or more science classes in grade eight or higher through grade  
38 twelve; and (ii) certificated under chapter 28A.410 RCW.

39        (6) A qualifying workshop must be: (a) Sponsored by a college or  
40 university as defined in RCW 28B.15.005, or a United States

1 department of energy national laboratory located in the state; (b)  
2 for science teachers in grades eight or higher through grade twelve;  
3 and (c) designed to teach matters relating to nuclear sciences,  
4 including mathematics, physics, chemistry, and related disciplines.

5 (7) Applicants for grants under the program are encouraged to do  
6 each of the following:

7 (a) Coordinate and collaborate with organizations and individuals  
8 engaging in similar educational, research, and development endeavors  
9 to maximize the effect of grants; and

10 (b) Seek matching funds, in-kind contributions, or other sources  
11 of support to supplement their proposal.

12 (8) Program grants may only be used to pay for the following  
13 costs:

14 (a) Mileage, subsistence, and lodging expenses for classroom  
15 ambassadors that are directly associated with their school visits.  
16 Reimbursed expenses must be paid at rates equivalent to  
17 reimbursements received by state employees under RCW 43.03.050 and  
18 43.03.060; or

19 (b) Tuition, books, mileage, subsistence, and lodging expenses  
20 for certificated science teachers in grades eight through twelve who  
21 attend science workshops on nuclear energy. Reimbursed expenses must  
22 be directly associated with workshop attendance and must be paid at  
23 rates equivalent to reimbursements received by state employees under  
24 RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

25 (9) The nuclear energy education program must be funded by state  
26 legislative appropriations and donated funds from private and public  
27 sources.

28 (10) The director may accept gifts, grants, or endowments from  
29 public or private sources for the program and may spend any gifts,  
30 grants, or endowments or income from public or private sources  
31 according to their terms. All funds received shall be deposited in  
32 the Washington nuclear energy education account created in section 3  
33 of this act.

34 (11) Nuclear ambassadors selected under the nuclear energy  
35 education program are not employees or agents of the state or any of  
36 its political subdivisions. This section does not create any civil  
37 liability on the part of the state or any of its political  
38 subdivisions, officers, employees, or agents for the actions taken by  
39 a nuclear ambassador during the course of serving under the program.

1 (12) The director may adopt rules to implement the nuclear energy  
2 education program.

3 (13) For the purposes of this section, "director" means the  
4 director of the Washington State University extension energy program  
5 or the director's designee.

6 (14) By December 15th of each year grants are awarded, the  
7 director shall report to the legislature the number and types of  
8 grants awarded and the amount of each grant. For nuclear ambassadors,  
9 the report must list the number and location of each classroom  
10 attended and the number of students in attendance in each classroom.  
11 For teacher workshops, the report must list the sponsor and location  
12 of each workshop and identify the school where each grant recipient  
13 is employed. The director may include any other information in the  
14 report that can assist the legislature in determining the  
15 effectiveness of the program.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington nuclear energy education  
17 account is established in the state treasury. The director of the  
18 Washington State University extension energy program or the  
19 director's designee shall deposit into the account federal grants to  
20 the state, legislative appropriations, and donated funds from private  
21 and public sources that are related to educating students in grades  
22 eight through twelve on the benefits of nuclear energy. Expenditures  
23 from the account may be used only for the purposes established in  
24 section 2 of this act and to publicize the nuclear energy education  
25 program. Only the director of the Washington State University  
26 extension energy program or the director's designee may authorize  
27 expenditures from the account.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act  
29 constitute a new chapter in Title 80 RCW.

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