

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1522**

69th Legislature  
2025 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 7, 2025  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

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**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 15, 2025  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1522** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1522**

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Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** House Environment & Energy (originally sponsored by  
Representatives Dent, Reeves, Springer, and Hill)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to approval of electric utility wildfire  
2 mitigation plans; amending RCW 80.24.010; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 80.28 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW  
4 80.28.440.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
7 provide for the safe, efficient, and reliable transmission and  
8 distribution of electric power at affordable rates. Preparation for  
9 and response to wildfire risk is an increasingly important element of  
10 planning conducted by electric utilities. Proper preparation is  
11 crucial to position electric utilities to respond to wildfire risk.  
12 It is essential to make sure these risks are addressed, as needed,  
13 but also within appropriate cost parameters to keep electric power  
14 affordable to the public. This legislation is designed to direct the  
15 prudent use of resources by electric utilities to mitigate and  
16 respond to wildfire risk within costs that can be justified as fair,  
17 just, and reasonable in order to balance wildfire risk with  
18 affordable electric rates. This act relates to planning only and  
19 shall not be construed to create or alter any cause of action or  
20 alter the burden of proof in any cause of action.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 80.28  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1)(a) Each electrical company must file a wildfire mitigation  
4    plan with the commission as soon as practicable after the effective  
5    date of this section, unless the company has previously filed a  
6    wildfire mitigation plan with the commission prior to the effective  
7    date of this section. An electrical company that has previously filed  
8    a wildfire plan with the commission must file a plan update as soon  
9    as practicable after the effective date of this section. To the  
10   extent practicable, a company should try to align the timing of  
11   filing a plan and plan updates with the filing of a multiyear rate  
12   plan under RCW 80.28.425. The company shall update a plan no less  
13   frequently than every three years. The company shall provide a copy  
14   of its wildfire mitigation plan and updates to the department of  
15   natural resources and the utility wildland fire prevention advisory  
16   committee created in RCW 76.04.780 in the format prescribed under RCW  
17   76.04.185 to be posted on the committee's website.

18        (b) Nothing in this subsection prohibits an electrical company  
19   from updating its wildfire mitigation plan more often than required  
20   under subsection (1)(a) of this section.

21        (2) The commission, after holding at least one public workshop  
22   and a hearing, must by order approve, reject, or approve with  
23   conditions, an electrical company's wildfire mitigation plan within  
24   120 days or plan update within 90 days of the filing of such plan or  
25   plan update. The commission may, in its order, recommend or require  
26   additional elements or practices to be included in the company's  
27   plan. The commission may, in approving with conditions the plan or  
28   plan update, make modifications to the plan or plan update that the  
29   commission reasonably finds represent a reasonable balancing of  
30   mitigation costs with the resulting reduction of wildfire risk. The  
31   commission shall issue an order explaining any modifications at the  
32   time the plan or plan update is approved. In evaluating a plan or  
33   plan update, the commission may consult with and consider information  
34   from federal, tribal, state, or local governmental entities,  
35   utilities, industry organizations, and groups representing utility  
36   customers. The commission shall describe the nature of its  
37   consultations with third parties in its order approving or approving  
38   with conditions a plan or plan update.

39        (3) The commission must adopt rules to implement this section.  
40   The rules must:

1 (a) Provide that a workshop be held pursuant to subsection (2) of  
2 this section that will involve local fire protection districts,  
3 utilities, affected landowners, and groups representing utility  
4 customers; and

5 (b) Include, but need not be limited to, procedures and standards  
6 regarding vegetation management, including guidelines for determining  
7 fair market landowner compensation when appropriate, public safety  
8 power shutoffs and service restoration, pole materials, circuitry,  
9 and monitoring systems.

10 (4) The commission is not liable for an electrical company's  
11 implementation of its wildfire mitigation plan. There is no liability  
12 on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature may arise  
13 against, the state, commission, commissioners, commission staff, or  
14 commission representatives, agents, or consultants for the death of  
15 or injury to persons, or property damage, for any action taken by  
16 them in the performance of their powers and duties exercised under  
17 this section.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 80.24.010 and 2024 c 351 s 13 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) Every public service company subject to regulation by the  
21 commission shall, on or before the date specified by the commission  
22 for filing annual reports under RCW 80.04.080, file with the  
23 commission a statement on oath showing its gross operating revenue  
24 from intrastate operations for the preceding calendar year or portion  
25 thereof and pay to the commission a fee equal to one-tenth of one  
26 percent of the first \$50,000 of gross operating revenue, plus four-  
27 tenths of one percent of any gross operating revenue in excess of  
28 \$50,000, except that a large combination utility as defined in RCW  
29 80.86.010 shall pay a fee equal to ~~((0.001))~~ 0.1 percent of the first  
30 \$50,000 of gross operating revenue, plus ~~((0.005))~~ 0.5 percent of any  
31 gross operating revenue in excess of \$50,000: PROVIDED, That the  
32 commission may, by rule, set minimum fees that do not exceed the cost  
33 of collecting the fees. The commission may by rule waive any or all  
34 of the minimum fee established pursuant to this ~~((section))~~  
35 subsection (1).

36 (2) The percentage rates of gross operating revenue to be paid in  
37 any year may be decreased by the commission for any class of  
38 companies subject to the payment of such fees, by general order  
39 entered before March 1st of such year, and for such purpose such

1 companies shall be classified as follows: Electrical, gas, water,  
2 telecommunications, and irrigation companies shall constitute class  
3 one. Every other company subject to regulation by the commission, for  
4 which regulatory fees are not otherwise fixed by law shall pay fees  
5 as herein provided and shall constitute additional classes according  
6 to kinds of businesses engaged in.

7 (3) The commission shall collect a reasonable fee from an  
8 electrical company in addition to the fee in subsection (1) of this  
9 section for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

10 (4) Any payment of the fee imposed by subsection (1) of this  
11 section made after its due date shall include a late fee of two  
12 percent of the amount due. Delinquent fees shall accrue interest at  
13 the rate of one percent per month.

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. RCW 80.28.440 (Wildfire mitigation plan—  
15 Review/revision) and 2023 c 132 s 3 are each repealed.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. If any provision of this act or its  
17 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
18 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
19 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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