

# Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

<b>Bill Number:</b> 6355 S SB PL	<b>Title:</b> Electric transmission system
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## Estimated Cash Receipts

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of State Treasurer	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Department of Commerce	0	0	0	35,000	35,000	35,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Department of Revenue	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>

Agency Name	2025-27		2027-29		2029-31	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts						
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.					
Local Gov. Total						

## Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of the Governor	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Office of State Treasurer	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Commerce	.8	1,104,726	1,104,726	1,104,726	2.6	2,424,692	2,424,692	2,424,692	2.8	2,143,576	2,143,576	2,143,576
Department of Revenue	.0	3,800	3,800	3,800	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Utilities and Transportation Commission	.4	0	0	132,174	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Ecology	.1	0	0	24,427	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1,108,526</b>	<b>1,108,526</b>	<b>1,265,127</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2,424,692</b>	<b>2,424,692</b>	<b>2,424,692</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2,143,576</b>	<b>2,143,576</b>	<b>2,143,576</b>

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

## Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Office of the Governor	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Office of State Treasurer	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Commerce	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Revenue	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Utilities and Transportation Commission	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Ecology	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

## Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

<b>Prepared by:</b> Marie Davis, OFM	<b>Phone:</b> (360) 890-1163	<b>Date Published:</b> Final 3/26/2026
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# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 6355 S SB PL	<b>Title:</b> Electric transmission system	<b>Agency:</b> 075-Office of the Governor
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## Part I: Estimates

**No Fiscal Impact**

**Estimated Cash Receipts to:**

NONE

**Estimated Operating Expenditures from:**

NONE

**Estimated Capital Budget Impact:**

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/12/2026
Agency Preparation: Tracy Girolami	Phone: 360-890-5279	Date: 03/13/2026
Agency Approval: Kathy Cody	Phone: (360) 480-7237	Date: 03/13/2026
OFM Review: Val Terre	Phone: (360) 280-3073	Date: 03/16/2026

## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

Changes in the bill that passed the legislature require the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to report the recommended consultation framework to the Governor by December 1, 2026. This does not change previous fiscal note assumptions.

Changes in SSB AMH DOGL H3830.1 removed the Office of Equity, but do not change the previous fiscal note assumptions.

The amendment clarifies that one gubernatorial appointee to the Washington Electric Transmission Authority board must have expertise in rural county land-use planning. This change does not affect the Office of the Governor's previous fiscal note assumptions.

Changes in the amendment do not change the Office of the Governor's responsibilities and therefore do not change previous fiscal note assumptions.

Senate Bill 6355 creates the Washington Electric Transmission Authority as a public body to improve the reliability, resilience, capacity, and affordability of the state's electric transmission system. A board of directors must be appointed by January 1, 2027, to provide oversight and advise the authority on policies.

Section 4 states that the Governor must appoint nine (9) members to the Authority's Board of Directors. The members of the board must include:

- A person with experience working at a consumer-owned utility, preferably with expertise in the transmission function;
- A person with experience working at an investor-owned utility, preferably with expertise in the transmission function;
- A person with expertise in land use planning and law and local permitting processes;
- A person with expertise in clean energy development;
- A person with expertise in ratepayer protection;
- A person representing electrical workers with expertise in building electric transmission;
- A person with expertise in financing large infrastructure projects;
- A person with expertise in wildlife conservation and land use policies;
- A person from a federally recognized Indian Tribe, including federally recognized Indian tribes whose reservation or ceded lands lie in Washington state.

One or more members must have experience with the Bonneville Power Administration's transmission service. No member of the board may represent a person who owns or operates electric generating or transmission facilities.

Members of the board appointed by the governor must serve four-year terms. However, the governor must stagger the terms of six of the initial appointees for terms of one, two, and three years. At the end of the term, these members may be reappointed by the governor, or the governor may choose to appoint a new member.

The Governor's Office's responsibilities are limited to appointing members to the Board of Directors of the Washington Electric Transmission Authority and receiving required reports from the authority. These activities can be absorbed within existing staff and resources, and therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

### II. B - Cash receipts Impact

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

### II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

### **Part III: Expenditure Detail**

#### **III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures**

NONE

#### **III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

NONE

**III. C - Operating FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

#### **III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)**

NONE

### **Part IV: Capital Budget Impact**

#### **IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures**

NONE

#### **IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

NONE

#### **IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout**

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

**IV. D - Capital FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

### **Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 6355 S SB PL	<b>Title:</b> Electric transmission system	<b>Agency:</b> 090-Office of State Treasurer
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## Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

**Estimated Cash Receipts to:**

**Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.**

**Estimated Operating Expenditures from:**

NONE

**Estimated Capital Budget Impact:**

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/12/2026
Agency Preparation: Dan Mason	Phone: (360) 902-8990	Date: 03/15/2026
Agency Approval: Dan Mason	Phone: (360) 902-8990	Date: 03/15/2026
OFM Review: Rayanna Evans	Phone: (564) 999-3255	Date: 03/18/2026

## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

SSB 6355 PL creates

1. the electric transmission operating account, coupled with the general fund as the recipient of the earnings from investments under RCW 43.84.092(4).
2. the electric transmission capital account and allows the account to retain its earnings from investments.

There will be some de-minimis work for OST which can be completed within current practices and resources.

### II. B - Cash receipts Impact

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

Projected cash flows are currently unavailable; therefore, estimated earnings from investments are indeterminable.

There may be an impact on the debt service limitation calculation. Changes to the earnings credited to the general fund impacts, by an equal amount, general state revenues.

### II. C - Expenditures

*Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

## Part III: Expenditure Detail

### III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

### III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

**III. C - Operating FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

### III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

## Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

### IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

### IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

### IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

**IV. D - Capital FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

## **Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 6355 S SB PL	<b>Title:</b> Electric transmission system	<b>Agency:</b> 103-Department of Commerce
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## Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

### Estimated Cash Receipts to:

ACCOUNT	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
General Fund-State 001-1				35,000	50,000
<b>Total \$</b>	0	0	0	35,000	50,000

### Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.0	1.5	0.8	2.6	2.8
<b>Account</b>					
General Fund-State 001-1	0	1,104,726	1,104,726	2,424,692	2,143,576
<b>Total \$</b>	0	1,104,726	1,104,726	2,424,692	2,143,576

### Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/12/2026
Agency Preparation: Mamie Perez	Phone: 360-725-3134	Date: 03/18/2026
Agency Approval: Joseph Piper	Phone: 360-725-3042	Date: 03/18/2026
OFM Review: Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 03/18/2026

## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

\*\*SB 6355 PL creates a Washington Electric Transmission Authority (Authority) to facilitate electric transmission development in the state. The Authority will be run by an executive director with a ten-member board of directors. The board will meet no less than quarterly. Commerce will provide staff support to the board. Commerce (and subsequently the Authority) will perform or adopt regional or federal transmission planning and work with stakeholders, utilities, and transmission developers to build new transmission lines and upgrade existing transmission lines. The Authority can develop, own, and act as a developer of last resort.

Sections 1 and 2 establish legislative intent to create a Transmission Authority described in the bill and include relevant definitions for terms used in the bill.

Section 3 establishes the responsibilities for Commerce in the legislation, including identifying high-priority corridors in an open, transparent process, to be completed by October 30, 2027. Commerce must provide administrative, staff support, and oversight until the executive director is hired.

Section 4 creates a 10-member board of directors to advise the Authority on policies that are consistent with the purposes of this chapter, including land use and local permitting processes. The board of directors must be confirmed by the state Senate and at least one-half of the members of the board must reside east of the crest of the Cascade mountains. Commerce will provide administrative and staff support to the board of directors prior to the executive director being hired. The board of directors must meet quarterly (remotely before an executive director is hired by June 30, 2027) and must follow the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Section 5 creates the Washington Electric Transmission Authority as a public body and instrumentality of the state exercising essential government functions related to transmission and sets out the purposes of the Authority. The Authority will collaborate with local jurisdictions, tribes, and electric utilities. This section directs the Authority to employ an executive director, appointed by the board of directors. The executive director will be a WMS3 Director. The authority must update the corridor identification study by October 30, 2032, and no less than every five years thereafter, in an open and transparent process. The Authority must submit a report to the legislature of its activities and operating and financial statements by December 1, 2026, and every July 1 after. The authority must charge and collect an application review fee of \$5,000 from each entity that applies for the use of services provided under a partnership with the authority.

Section 6 allows the Authority to adopt rules to implement the bill, enter into contracts and agreements, lease, purchase, accept donations of, or otherwise own, hold, improve, or use any property, and to own transmission equipment and systems. The Authority may also use eminent domain to acquire right of way with approval by the board of directors. The Authority may utilize services of executive departments of the state under mutually agreeable terms. The Authority may assist the project proponent in following SEPA and may support and facilitate tribal consultation. The Authority must also adopt rules for initial local investment committee fee and annual local investment commitment fee, subject to approval by the board of directors, to distribute to counties, cities, towns, and tribes. The Authority would need continued outside counsel and consultants to arrange complex partnerships and financing agreements with utilities and developers.

Section 7 sets labor standards for projects where the Authority selects a qualified transmission builder or operator.

Section 8 requires Commerce to contract with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) to, in coordination with the Departments of Ecology and Commerce, convene federally recognized Indian tribes to develop a tribal consultation framework for statewide electric transmission planning and implementation. Specifies what must be included in the new tribal consultation framework and requires GOIA to submit a report to the legislature and governor by December 1, 2026.

Section 9 creates a new electric transmission operating account in the state treasury.

Section 10 creates a new electric transmission capital account in the state treasury.

Section 11 instructs the authority that all information it obtains that is critical energy infrastructure information or proprietary technical or business information shall be confidential.

Section 12 requires the authority to make annual payments in lieu of property taxes to counties in which the authority owns electric transmission facilities that are exempt from property taxes, beginning in the first year that such facilities would be subject to a tax assessment if owned by a taxable entity. The amount of the payment must be determined jointly and in good faith negotiation between the authority, in consultation with the project partner, lessee, or operator of the transmission facility, and the county in which the facility is located. If the authority and a county cannot agree on the amount of the payment in lieu of taxes, either party may invoke binding arbitration

Section 13-18 includes requirements for surplus balances in the treasury account.

Section 19 establishes expiration dates for various sections in the bill.

Sections 20 establishes effective dates for various sections in the bill.

Sections 21 identifies sections with new chapter in Title 43 RCW

**II. B - Cash receipts Impact**

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

Sec. 5(6). – Collect application review fee of \$5,000 from each entity that applies for use of services under a partnership with WETA

- FY27 – 0
- FY28 - \$15,000
- FY29 - \$20,000
- FY30 - \$25,000
- FY31 - \$25,000

**II. C - Expenditures**

*Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

To meet the requirements of SB 6355 PL, Commerce estimates the following:

Energy and Innovation Expenditures:

Section 3 requires Commerce to conduct a corridor identification study in an open, transparent process by October 30, 2027 and to consider the costs and benefits to Washington ratepayers when identifying high priority transmission corridors. The high priority transmission corridors must be identified from those identified in the western transmission expansion coalition's west-wide transmission needs study 10-year horizon report published in February 2026 and Commerce must also review the western transmission expansion coalition's 20-year horizon report. Based on current market trends, the cost is anticipated to be \$460,000. The assessment will be completed by an external consultant contracted through Commerce and performed every five years thereafter by the Authority.

Section 4 establishes a board of directors of government, industry, and advocacy representatives and clarifies that the board must follow the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. Staffing for the board of directors are included in the staff required by Section 3.

Section 5 establishes the Authority with an Executive Director who may employ staff as necessary.

0.50 EMS 2 (1,044 hours) to hire the transmission corridor contractor and support their work in FY 27 and the first six months of FY 28, and consider the cost and benefits to Washington ratepayers when identifying high priority transmission corridors. This position will also support and maintain oversight of the Washington electric transmission authority until the board of directors hires an executive director (required to occur by June 30, 2027).

0.20 Administrative Assistant 3 (416 hours) to provide administrative support to the board of directors in FY 27-31 (and ongoing).

1.0 FTE WMS3 Director (2088 hours) in FY28-31 (and ongoing) to employ staff for the office and oversee as the primary director of the transmission authority.

1.0 FTE Management Analyst 4 (2088 hours) in FY29-31 (and ongoing) for permitting/SEPA support work, local government/tribal work, and staff the board of directors.

Section 6 requires the Authority to adopt rules to implement the bill, enter into contracts and agreements, lease, purchase, accept donations of, or otherwise own, hold, improve, or use any property, and own transmission equipment and systems. This will require rulemakings on at least six topics (some of which could likely be combined). These rulemakings will be separate but will rely on the same staff outlined below. Outside counsel and consultants would be needed in FY28-31 to develop contractual arrangements and agreements for projects, leases, purchases, and competitive bidding, as an estimated cost of \$400,000 per fiscal year.

Section 8 directs Commerce to contract with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) to, in coordination with the Departments of Ecology and Commerce, convene federally recognized Indian tribes to develop a tribal consultation framework for statewide electric transmission planning and implementation. This section specifies what must be included in the new tribal consultation framework and requires GOIA to submit a report to the legislature and governor by December 1, 2026. GOIA anticipates needing \$150,000 to hire a contractor to help complete this work, which will include meetings approximately every other week July-December.

Commerce estimates the following staff are needed to complete the work of this section:

0.20 FTE EMS2 (417 hours) in FY27 to provide subject matter expertise, support the convening, review draft reports, manage contracting with GOIA.

0.10 FTE WMS3 (208 hours) in FY27 to provide subject matter expertise, support the convening, and review draft reports.

#### Section 3, 5, and 6 Expenditures

##### Salaries and Benefits

FY27: \$120,986  
FY28: \$353,653  
FY29: \$395,333  
FY30: \$395,333  
FY31: \$395,333

##### Goods and Services

FY27: \$3,500  
FY28: \$8,500  
FY29: \$11,000  
FY30: \$11,000  
FY31: \$11,000

Professional Service Contracts

FY27: \$610,000  
FY28: \$400,000  
FY29: \$400,000  
FY30: \$400,000  
FY31: \$400,000

Intra-agency Reimbursement

FY27: \$38,353  
FY28: \$112,108  
FY29: \$125,321  
FY30: \$125,321  
FY31: \$125,321

Total Costs

FY27: \$622,839  
FY28: \$874,261  
FY29: \$931,654  
FY30: \$931,654  
FY31: \$931,654

Section 8 Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits

FY27: \$135,482  
FY28: \$135,482

Goods and Services

FY27: \$4,000  
FY28: \$4,000

Travel

FY27: \$10,657

Professional Service Contracts

FY27: \$100,000  
FY28: \$100,000

Grants

FY27: \$24,225  
FY28: \$13,509

Intra-agency Reimbursement

FY27: \$42,948  
FY28: \$42,948

Total Costs

FY27: \$317,312  
FY28: \$295,939

Local Government Division Expenditures

The Department of Commerce (Department) is responsible for implementation of and technical assistance for the Growth Management Act (GMA), codified as chapter 36.70A RCW. The GMA governs land use decisions, critical area protections, mitigation requirements and protections of agricultural and natural resource lands of long-term commercial significance to the state.

The Department assumes development of guidance for local governments and tribes on the impacts to critical areas and agricultural and natural resource lands from the siting of energy infrastructure and appropriate mitigation will be necessary and would begin during FY28 with an expected project duration of two years.

The Department assumes land use expertise and local permitting expertise will be necessary to implement this act.

The Department also assumes assistance as the lead agency on SEPA will require knowledge of critical areas mitigation and controls on the conversion of agricultural and natural resource lands.

0.10 FTE Washington Management Services 3 (209 hours) FY27 and 0.20 FTE (418 hours) ongoing thereafter to serve as the subject matter expert on the GMA. This staff member establishes and implements statewide land use policies. This staff is the decision maker over all elements of the program. Staff provide expert policy advice or consultation on a range of issues specific to the Growth Management Act and to areas that have agency wide implications.

0.10 FTE Washington Management Services 1 (209 hours) FY27 and ongoing thereafter to serve as the liaison between tribes and local governments on land use issues. This staff is also the manager of the Tribal Dispute Resolution Program and will provide in-person support to tribes.

0.30 FTE Commerce Specialist 4 (627 hours) FY27 and ongoing thereafter to serve as expert for land use and permitting energy infrastructure in support of local governments. This staff will lead the development of guidance for local governments and tribes on the impacts to critical areas and agricultural and natural resource lands from the siting of energy infrastructure and appropriate mitigation.

Salaries and benefits:

FY27: \$80,145

FY28: \$102,304

FY29: \$102,304

FY30: \$102,304

FY31: \$102,304

Goods and services:

FY27: \$2,500

FY28: \$3,000

FY29: \$3,000

FY30: \$3,000

FY31: \$3,000

Travel:

FY27: \$2,400

FY28: \$2,400

FY29: \$2,400

FY30: \$2,400

FY31: \$2,400

Professional Service Contract: The Department assumes the need for one professional service contract to assist staff in the development of guidance for tribes and local governments regarding the permitting and siting of agrivoltaics and other renewable energy generating projects. The environmental impacts on cultural resources, critical areas, the forest industry and lands of agricultural and commercial long-term significance to the state requires expertise not available within the

agency.

FY28: \$100,000

FY29: \$125,000

Intra-agency reimbursement:

FY27: \$25,406

FY28: \$32,430

FY29: \$32,430

FY30: \$32,430

FY31: \$32,430

Total cost:

FY27: \$110,451

FY28: \$240,134

FY29: \$265,134

FY30: \$140,134

FY31: \$140,134

Total Agency Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits

FY27: \$265,713

FY28: \$455,957

FY29: \$497,637

FY30: \$497,637

FY31: \$497,637

Goods and Services

FY27: \$7,500

FY28: \$11,500

FY29: \$14,000

FY30: \$14,000

FY31: \$14,000

Travel

FY27: \$13,057

FY28: \$2,400

FY29: \$2,400

FY30: \$2,400

FY31: \$2,400

Professional Service Contracts

FY27: \$710,000

FY28: \$600,000

FY29: \$525,000

FY30: \$400,000

FY31: \$400,000

Grants

FY27: \$24,225

FY28: \$13,509

Intra-agency Reimbursement

FY27: \$84,231  
 FY28: \$144,538  
 FY29: \$157,751  
 FY30: \$157,751  
 FY31: \$157,751

Total Costs

FY27: \$1,104,726  
 FY28: \$1,227,904  
 FY29: \$1,196,788  
 FY30: \$1,071,788  
 FY31: \$1,071,788

### Part III: Expenditure Detail

#### III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
001-1	General Fund	State	0	1,104,726	1,104,726	2,424,692	2,143,576
<b>Total \$</b>			0	1,104,726	1,104,726	2,424,692	2,143,576

#### III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years		1.5	0.8	2.6	2.8
A-Salaries and Wages		179,536	179,536	644,320	672,482
B-Employee Benefits		86,177	86,177	309,274	322,792
C-Professional Service Contracts		710,000	710,000	1,125,000	800,000
E-Goods and Other Services		7,500	7,500	25,500	28,000
G-Travel		13,057	13,057	4,800	4,800
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services		24,225	24,225	13,509	
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements		84,231	84,231	302,289	315,502
9-					
<b>Total \$</b>	0	1,104,726	1,104,726	2,424,692	2,143,576

#### III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Administrative Assistant 3	59,789		0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Commerce Specialist 4	93,287		0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
EMS Band 2	139,579		0.7	0.4	0.3	
Management Analyst 4	97,951				0.5	1.0
WMS Band 1	111,934		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
WMS Band 3	157,208		0.2	0.1	1.2	1.2
<b>Total FTEs</b>			1.5	0.8	2.6	2.8

#### III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

Program	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Energy Division (500)		994,275	994,275	1,919,424	1,863,308
Local Government Division (600)		110,451	110,451	505,268	280,268
<b>Total \$</b>		1,104,726	1,104,726	2,424,692	2,143,576

## **Part IV: Capital Budget Impact**

### **IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures**

NONE

### **IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

NONE

### **IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout**

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

### **IV. D - Capital FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

## **Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

Section 6 will require the Authority to either develop internal operating procedures or conduct rulemaking on the topics below:

The definition of a “qualified transmission builder or operator”

Developing a transparent process for competitive requests for proposals, evaluating proposals, and selecting buyers of transmission facilities

Use of eminent domain following approval from the board of directors

Selection of and participation in projects

In consultation with the board of directors, development of criteria for local investment fees

# Department of Revenue Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 6355 S SB PL	<b>Title:</b> Electric transmission system	<b>Agency:</b> 140-Department of Revenue
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## Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

**Estimated Cash Receipts to:**

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

**Estimated Expenditures from:**

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years		0.1	0.0		
<b>Account</b>					
GF-STATE-State 001-1		3,800	3,800		
<b>Total \$</b>		3,800	3,800		

**Estimated Capital Budget Impact:**

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/12/2026
Agency Preparation: Kari Kenall	Phone: 60-534-1508	Date: 03/19/2026
Agency Approval: Marianne McIntosh	Phone: 60-534-1505	Date: 03/19/2026
OFM Review: Tyler Lentz	Phone: (360) 790-0055	Date: 03/25/2026

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## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

- Note:
- This fiscal note reflects language in SSB 6355 as passed in the 2026 Legislative Session.
  - This fiscal note only addresses section 12, which impacts the Department of Revenue (department).

#### CURRENT LAW:

All property belonging exclusively to the state government is exempt from property taxation.

A payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) is a payment made to local governments by organizations—such as state governments—that do not have to pay property taxes. The PILT helps offset property tax revenue the local government would have received if the property were taxable.

County treasurers collect property taxes and distribute them to taxing districts based on each district's specific tax rate and levy amount.

#### PROPOSAL:

This bill requires the Washington Electric Transmission Authority (authority), a state government organization, to make annual PILT to counties where its transmission facilities are located. The authority must begin PILT in the first year in which the improvements associated with the transmission facility would be subject to property tax assessment if a taxable entity owned the facility.

The authority, transmission facility project partners, lessees, or operators, and the county assessor must negotiate the PILT amount. The agreed amount cannot exceed the property taxes the transmission facility would pay if owned by a taxable entity, as determined by the county assessor. The authority and the county may engage in arbitration if they cannot agree on a PILT amount.

The authority must collect payments from transmission facility partners, lessees, or operators under a lease or project agreement. It must send those payments to the county treasurer as agreed with the county, but at least once a year.

The county treasurer must distribute the collected payments in the same manner as they collect property tax revenues.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE:

The bill takes effect 90 days after the final adjournment of the session.

### II. B - Cash receipts Impact

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

The revenue impact of this proposal is indeterminate. It is unknown when the authority would own transmission facility property and what the negotiated PILT amounts and timing would be.

### II. C - Expenditures

*Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

#### ASSUMPTIONS:

- This bill affects one taxpayer.

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Bill # 6355 S SB PL

- PILT payments are collected by the county treasurers.

**FIRST YEAR COSTS:**

The department will not incur costs in fiscal year 2026.

**SECOND YEAR COSTS:**

The department will incur total costs of \$3,800 in fiscal year 2027. These costs include:

- Labor Costs – Time and effort equate to 0.07 FTE.
- Amend one administrative rule.

**ONGOING COSTS:**

There are no ongoing costs.

**Part III: Expenditure Detail**

**III. A - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years		0.1	0.0		
A-Salaries and Wages		2,600	2,600		
B-Employee Benefits		900	900		
E-Goods and Other Services		200	200		
J-Capital Outlays		100	100		
<b>Total \$</b>		\$3,800	\$3,800		

**III. B - Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
EMS BAND 4	139,704		0.0	0.0		
MGMT ANALYST4	80,822		0.0	0.0		
TAX POLICY SP 2	82,874		0.0	0.0		
TAX POLICY SP 3	93,800		0.0	0.0		
TAX POLICY SP 4	100,981		0.0	0.0		
WMS BAND 3	114,564		0.0	0.0		
<b>Total FTEs</b>			0.1	0.1		

**III. C - Expenditures By Program (optional)**

NONE

**Part IV: Capital Budget Impact**

**IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures**

NONE

**IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

NONE

**IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout**

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

## **Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

Should this legislation become law, the department will use the expedited process to amend WAC 458-19-550, titled: "State levy-Apportionment between counties." This rulemaking would affect Washington's electric transmission facilities.

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 6355 S SB PL	<b>Title:</b> Electric transmission system	<b>Agency:</b> 215-Utilities and Transportation Commission
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## Part I: Estimates

**No Fiscal Impact**

### Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

### Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
<b>Account</b>					
Public Service Revolving Account-State 111-1	66,087	66,087	132,174	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>66,087</b>	<b>66,087</b>	<b>132,174</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/12/2026
Agency Preparation: Michelle Parish	Phone: 360-664-1158	Date: 03/17/2026
Agency Approval: Michelle Parish	Phone: 360-664-1158	Date: 03/17/2026
OFM Review: Renee Martine	Phone: (360) 915-4588	Date: 03/18/2026

## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

Sections 1 create the Washington electric transmission authority to: (a) Improve reliability and resilience, including during extreme weather events; (b) Increase access to low-cost renewable energy; (c) Achieve clean electricity requirements and greenhouse gas emissions limits; (d) Support economic growth; and (e) Maintain affordable energy rates. (No NEW Fiscal Impact)

Section 2 creates definitions that apply to the Washington electric transmission authority. Sub. Bill adds definitions including “investor-owned utilities” - adds new definition of “Neighboring landowner” (No NEW Fiscal Impact)

Sec. 3 - creates responsibilities for Commerce related to planning and supporting electric transmission infrastructure in Washington. It directs the department to identify priority transmission corridors, allows it to hire independent experts to assist with that work, and requires it to provide administrative support for the newly created Washington Electric Transmission Authority until that authority is fully staffed. Identify high-priority transmission corridors by Oct. 30, 2027. Adds language requiring department to consider costs and benefits of rate payers when identifying corridors and allows department to contract with independent experts to identify those high priority corridors. NEW The Department is required to identify high priority transmission corridors using the 10- and 20-year horizon reports and the identification must be conducted by Oct. 30, 2027.  
(No NEW Fiscal Impact)

Section 4 discusses the 10-member board requirements and that the Board of directors must be appointed by Jan. 1, 2027, and an Exec. Director hired by June 30, 2027. Clarifies that one member will be appointed to authority with expertise in rural county land use planning and law and local permitting processes. Moves ability to consult with other state agencies or subject matter experts on natural hazards when facilitating transmission projects to Section 6. NEW adds requirement for Senate to confirm members to the board of directors. Adds a requirement that half of the members must reside east of the Cascades and may not represent a person that owns or operates an electric generating or transmission facility. Adds that the board is considered a governing body. (No NEW fiscal impact)

Sec. 5 – 18 – Creates a state electric transmission authority empowered to plan finance own operate partner on or sell high-voltage transmission projects. It will adopt rules, use eminent domain (new addition related to efforts to acquire property before exercising eminent domain), receive and expend funds, coordinate with utilities, tribes, and finance authorities. It will require qualified Builders, it will form a tribal clean energy partnership workgroup, define and protect confidential critical energy infrastructure information, establish operating and capital transmission accounts, and grant SEP a categorical exemption in tribal consultation procedures for specified upgrades to existing 115 KV transmission lines.

Sec. 5 – adds reconductoring with advanced conductors to list of priorities and ways to upgrade or assist with development of existing transmission lines.  
NEW Sec. 5 - requires the authority to update the transmission corridor identification study by utilizing existing plans at the national, regional, or utility level.

Sec. 6 – adds that the authority must develop and publish a plan identifying a consideration of the costs and benefits to Washington ratepayers if owning a transmission facility. NEW must receive approval from the board of directors before exercising the power of eminent domain and adopting criteria for an initial local investment commitment.

Sec. 7 removes the US Dept. of Labor from the location where apprenticeship programs must be registered and adds a completion rate time perimeter.

Sec. 8 is updated to require Commerce to contract with the Governor’s office of Indian Affairs related to statewide electric

transmission planning and implementation and details the requirements of the tribal consultation framework. This section requires the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs to submit a report that summarizes the recommended tribal consultation framework and identifies any proposed statutory or administrative changes by Dec. 1, 2026.

NEW Sec. 12 – Relates to property tax exemption and that the authority must make payment to counties in which transmission facilities are located. (All following sections are renumbered with this addition)

(Overall No NEW fiscal impact –changes in section numbers, additional information/clarification on duties including change in language to a more supportive tone related to environmental policy act process and tribal relations and who should perform all construction and maintenance work, removes incentive rate of return impact which removes fiscal impact from previous version.)

Sections 19 through 21 set expiration requirements. (No Fiscal Impact)

**II. B - Cash receipts Impact**

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

UTC assumes no cash receipts will go to the UTC as a result of this legislation.

**II. C - Expenditures**

*Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

Commission participation in separate Authority rulemaking  
 Authority is required to adopt new rulemakings, taking about six months and requiring six hybrid meetings to complete. This will require staff participation, including data and policy analysis. Staff anticipates this work to begin July 1, 2026.

FY2026 and FY2027 - \$66,087 per FY  
 (Section Manager | Energy Rates & Services, 0.07 FTE; Deputy Director | Energy Rates & Services, 0.02 FTE; Policy Advisor, 0.07 FTE; Regulatory Analyst 3, 0.14 FTE; Attorney General, 0.03 FTE; Director | Regulatory Services, 0.02 FTE; Deputy Director | Policy, 0.02 FTE)

**Part III: Expenditure Detail**

**III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures**

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
111-1	Public Service Revolving Account	State	66,087	66,087	132,174	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>			66,087	66,087	132,174	0	0

**III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>2025-27</b>	<b>2027-29</b>	<b>2029-31</b>
FTE Staff Years	0.4	0.4	0.4		
A-Salaries and Wages	44,957	44,957	89,914		
B-Employee Benefits	15,735	15,735	31,470		
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	5,395	5,395	10,790		
G-Travel					
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>66,087</b>	<b>66,087</b>	<b>132,174</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**III. C - Operating FTE Detail:** *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

<b>Job Classification</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>2025-27</b>	<b>2027-29</b>	<b>2029-31</b>
Attorney General	238,800	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Deputy Director, Energy Rates and Services	125,100	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Deputy Director, Policy	124,392	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Director, Regulatory Services	148,428	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Policy Advisor, Energy	107,700	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Regulatory Analyst 3	103,536	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Section Manager, Energy Rates and Services Unit A	111,432	0.1	0.1	0.1		
<b>Total FTEs</b>		<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>		<b>0.0</b>

**III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)**

NONE

**Part IV: Capital Budget Impact**

**IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures**

NONE

**IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

NONE

**IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout**

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

**IV. D - Capital FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

**Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 6355 S SB PL	<b>Title:</b> Electric transmission system	<b>Agency:</b> 355-Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
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**Part I: Estimates**

**No Fiscal Impact**

**Estimated Cash Receipts to:**

NONE

**Estimated Operating Expenditures from:**

NONE

**Estimated Capital Budget Impact:**

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/12/2026
Agency Preparation: Diann Lewallen	Phone: 360-407-8121	Date: 03/16/2026
Agency Approval: Allyson Brooks	Phone: 360-586-3066	Date: 03/16/2026
OFM Review: Rayanna Evans	Phone: (564) 999-3255	Date: 03/18/2026

## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

This bill creates a new Washington electric transmission authority to improve transmission reliability, resilience, and affordability. It outlines the priorities and responsibilities for the new Authority and assigns some supporting activities to the Department of Commerce that will assist the new Authority. The substitute adds a requirement for the electric transmission authority to make a reasonable and diligent effort to acquire property and interests through negotiation prior to exercising eminent domain. It also clarifies that the Authority will support government-to-government consultation with federally recognized tribes affected by partnerships on transmission projects.

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation assumes there will be no direct impact as a result of the activities outlined in the bill, therefore, assumes no fiscal impact.

### II. B - Cash receipts Impact

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

### II. C - Expenditures

*Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

## Part III: Expenditure Detail

### III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

### III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

**III. C - Operating FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

### III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

## Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

### IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

### IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

### IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

**IV. D - Capital FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

## **Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 6355 S SB PL	<b>Title:</b> Electric transmission system	<b>Agency:</b> 461-Department of Ecology
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## Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

### Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

### Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
<b>Account</b>					
Climate Commitment Account-State 26C-1	6,106	18,321	24,427	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>	6,106	18,321	24,427	0	0

### Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/12/2026
Agency Preparation: Deborah Wilder	Phone: 360-701-1220	Date: 03/17/2026
Agency Approval: Garret Ward	Phone: 360-789-7938	Date: 03/17/2026
OFM Review: Lisa Borkowski	Phone: (360) 742-2239	Date: 03/24/2026

## Part II: Narrative Explanation

### II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

*Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.*

This bill would create a new Washington Electric Transmission Authority (Authority) to support planning and expansion of new transmission and distributed energy. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) would be required to staff and support the Authority and identify high priority transmission corridors. The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) would be required to coordinate with Commerce and Ecology to convene federally recognized Tribes to develop a recommended Tribal consultation framework applicable to transmission planning.

Changes between AMH ENGR H3830.1 and PL SSB 6355:

This version would require at least half of the members of the Authority's board to reside in the eastern half of the state. Members would also need to be confirmed by the Senate.

This version would require the Authority to participate in negotiations on the amount of and annually pay a sum in lieu of property taxes to counties for transmission facilities located within that county. The Authority would collect the funds from the lessee, project partner, or operator and provide the funds to the county treasurer.

Section Summary of PL SSB 6355:

Section 1 would lay out legislative findings and intent to create the Washington Electric Transmission Authority (Authority) to improve transmission reliability, resilience, and affordability.

Section 2 would define the Authority, board of directors, and other terms relevant to the bill.

Section 3 would add a new section to chapter 43.21F RCW, on the State Energy Office, that would require Commerce to identify high priority transmission corridors by October 30, 2027, allow Commerce to work with a contractor to do so, and direct Commerce to provide all support for and oversee the Authority until an executive director is hired.

Section 4 would create a board of directors to oversee the Authority. This section would include specific appointment and experience requirements for members of the board, authorize external consultation, and lay out other board procedures.

Section 5 would establish the Authority as a public body. It would lay out the priorities, goals, and duties of the Authority. The Authority would be required to submit a report of its activities to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2027, and annually every July 1st thereafter.

Section 6 would list the powers of the Authority, including entering contracts, applying for funding, entering into partnerships, charging fees for services, and assisting the project proponent with following the State Environmental Policy Act process. The Authority would be limited to exercising eminent domain only after receiving board approval.

Section 7 would require the Authority to ensure all work be performed by qualified employees of an electric utility or contractors meeting detailed qualifications.

Section 8 would add a new section to chapter 43.31 RCW, regarding the Department of Commerce, that requires GOIA to coordinate with Commerce and Ecology to convene federally recognized Tribes to develop a recommended Tribal consultation framework applicable to transmission planning. GOIA, in coordination with Commerce and Ecology, would be required to submit a report summarizing the framework and proposed statutory or administrative changes by December 1, 2026.

Section 9 would establish the electric transmission operating account in the state treasury.

Section 10 would establish the electric transmission capital account in the state treasury.

Section 11 would define the types of information to be considered confidential and not subject to inspection or disclosure pursuant to chapter 42.56 RCW, the Public Records Act.

Section 12 would require the Authority to participate in negotiations on the amount of and annually pay counties a sum in lieu of property taxes to counties for transmission facilities located within that county. The Authority would collect the funds from the lessee, project partner, or operator and provide the funds to the county treasurer.

Sections 13 - 18 would amend RCW 43.84.092 and various session laws related to the deposit of surplus balance investment earnings to add the electric transmission capital account to the list of accounts that receive their proportionate share of earnings from the state treasurer.

Section 19 would add expiration dates for sections 13 – 17 of this bill.

Section 20 would add effective dates for sections 14 – 18 of this bill.

Section 21 would add Sections 1, 2, 4 - 7, and 9 -11 as a new chapter in Title 43 RCW, State Government – Executive.

## **II. B - Cash receipts Impact**

*Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

## **II. C - Expenditures**

*Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.*

The expenditure impact to Ecology under this bill is estimated to be less than \$50,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY 2027 to implement the requirements of section 8.

Section 8: GOIA, in coordination with Commerce and Ecology, would be required to convene federally recognized Tribes to develop a recommended Tribal consultation framework applicable to transmission planning and submit a report summarizing the framework and proposed statutory or administrative changes by December 1, 2026. Staff would develop an engagement plan, participate in Tribal consultation, compile meeting notes, draft and review the framework and proposed statutory changes, and review the report due December 1, 2026.

Ecology estimates implementation would require two meetings per month, each lasting 3 hours, between April 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026, for a total of 18 meetings or 162 hours. Each meeting would require participation by a WMS Band 2 Clean Energy Section Manager, an Environmental Planner 4, and a WMS Band 3 Tribal Liaison. In addition, review of the draft report would require 20 hours each by a WMS Band 2, Environmental Planner 4, and WMS Band 3, for a total of 60 hours.

Ecology estimates implementation would require a WMS Band 2 Clean Energy Section Manager at 0.01 FTE in FY 2026 and 0.3 FTE in FY 2027. Ecology also estimates implementation would require an Environmental Planner 4 at 0.01 FTE in FY 2026 and 0.3 FTE in FY 2027. Ecology estimates implementation would require an WMS Band 3 Tribal Liaison at 0.01 FTE in FY 2026 and 0.3 FTE in FY 2027.

Ecology assumes that our responsibilities under this bill will end when the report to develop a recommended tribal consultation framework is completed in December 2026. If Ecology will need to participate in meetings or provide support beyond December 2026, the cost would be ongoing but indeterminate.

**SUMMARY:** The expenditure impact to Ecology under this bill is \$24,427 total in FY 2026 and FY 2027 combined.

SECTION 8 is estimated to require:  
 FY 2026: \$6,106 and 0.03 FTEs  
 FY 2027: \$18,321 and 0.10 FTEs.

THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE IMPACT to Ecology under this bill is estimated to be:  
 FY 2026: \$6,106 and 0.03 FTEs  
 FY 2027: \$18,321 and 0.10 FTEs.

Notes on costs by object:

Salary estimates are current biennium actual rates at Step L.  
 Benefits are the agency average of 31.3% of salaries.  
 Goods and Services are the agency average of \$5,531 per direct program FTE.  
 Travel is the agency average of \$1,931 per direct program FTE.  
 Equipment is the agency average of \$605 per direct program FTE.  
 Agency Administrative Overhead is calculated at the federally approved agency indirect rate of 28.85% of direct program salaries and benefits, and is shown as object 9. Agency Administrative Overhead FTEs are included at 0.15 FTE per direct program FTE, and are identified as Fiscal Analyst 2 and IT App Development - Journey.

**Part III: Expenditure Detail**

**III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures**

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
26C-1	Climate Commitment Account	State	6,106	18,321	24,427	0	0
<b>Total \$</b>			6,106	18,321	24,427	0	0

**III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.0	0.1	0.1		
A-Salaries and Wages	3,467	10,400	13,867		
B-Employee Benefits	1,086	3,256	4,342		
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	165	498	663		
G-Travel	57	174	231		
J-Capital Outlays	18	54	72		
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-Agency Administrative Overhead	1,313	3,939	5,252		
<b>Total \$</b>	6,106	18,321	24,427	0	0

**III. C - Operating FTE Detail:** *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER 4		0.0	0.0	0.0		
FISCAL ANALYST 2			0.0	0.0		
WMS BAND 2		0.0	0.0	0.0		
WMS BAND 3		0.0	0.0	0.0		
<b>Total FTEs</b>		0.0	0.1	0.1		0.0

**III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)**

NONE

**Part IV: Capital Budget Impact**

**IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures**

NONE

**IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

NONE

**IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout**

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

**IV. D - Capital FTE Detail:** *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

**Part V: New Rule Making Required**

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 6355 S SB PL

Title: Electric transmission system

## Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

### Legislation Impacts:

- Cities: All cities. Potential local investment commitment fee revenue for high voltage projects.
- Counties: All counties. Potential local investment commitment fee revenue for high voltage projects. Potential arbitration costs.
- Special Districts:
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

## Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option: Local governments have the option to enter into a partnership with the authority for use of services.
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: The number of high voltage projects to be developed by the authority. Local investment commitment fee structure.

### Estimated revenue impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

### Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

## Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Kristine Williams	Phone: (564) 250-5931	Date: 03/13/2026
Leg. Committee Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/12/2026
Agency Approval: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 03/13/2026
OFM Review: Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 03/18/2026

## **Part IV: Analysis**

### **A. SUMMARY OF BILL**

*Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.*

This note is on 6355 SSB.PL and compares it to 6355 SSB AMH DOGL H3830.1.

#### **CHANGES BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND THE PRIOR VERSION OF THE BILL:**

This version of the bill requires the Washington Electric Transmission Authority board members to be confirmed by the senate and that at least one-half of the members reside east of the crest of the Cascade mountains. This bill also requires the Washington Electric Transmission Authority (authority) to receive approval from the board to invoke the power of eminent domain and adopt criteria in rule for local commitment investment fees.

Sec. 12 is a new section which requires electric transmission facilities owned by the authority that are exempt from property tax under RCW 84.36.010 to make payments in lieu of taxes to counties in which the facilities are located. A process for binding arbitration is provided where the arbitration costs are borne equally by the parties. The authority shall collect payments from a lessee, project partner, or operator of the facility and provide those payments to the county treasurer. The amount may not exceed the property tax amount that would be owed on the facility if it were owned by a taxable entity.

These changes modify the fiscal impacts discussed below.

#### **SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL**

This bill creates the Washington Electric Transmission Authority (authority) to improve the reliability and capacity of the electric transmission system in Washington state. The authority will provide development transmission services and conduct other related activities in consultation with local and federal jurisdictions, utilities, transmission developers, federally recognized Indian tribes, and affected communities.

There are several effective and expiration dates included in the bill. Please refer to the bill for specific dates.

### **B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS**

*Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.*

#### **CHANGES IN EXPENDITURE IMPACTS BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND THE PREVIOUS BILL VERSION:**

This version of the bill allows either the authority or the county to invoke binding arbitration if there is no mutual agreement on the payment amounts in lieu of property taxes certain electric transmission facilities are required to pay to counties.

#### **EXPENDITURE IMPACTS OF CURRENT BILL:**

County assessors will incur administrative costs necessary to make valuations for electric transmission facilities that are tax-exempt. Counties may also incur administrative and legal costs due to binding arbitration. These costs will vary depending on the number of tax-exempt facilities and are indeterminate.

Local governments may choose to enter into a partnership with the authority to use services provided under a partnership agreement. If a local government chose to adopt the local option, it may incur administrative and legal costs to review the partnership agreement in addition to the \$5,000 fee imposed. The partnership may also require city council or county commissioners' approval depending on the scope of the agreement. However, there is no fiscal impact on local government expenditures due to the local option.

### **C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS**

*Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.*

#### **REVENUE IMPACTS OF CURRENT BILL:**

The initial and/or annual local investment impact fees to be distributed to counties, cities, towns, and tribes will be in proportion to the project's impact and will be transferred with the title if the project is sold. These revenues cannot be estimated until the rulemaking is completed and are therefore indeterminate. The revenue impact of this legislation is indeterminate.

#### SOURCES

Department of Commerce