
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6263

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE AND PURCHASE OF GAS-POWERED HAND-HELD OR BACKPACK LEAF BLOWERS BY STATE AGENCIES.

SUMMARY

Beginning September 1, 2027, this bill requires the departments of Administrative Services (DAS), Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and Transportation (DOT), within available appropriations, to start replacing certain gas-powered landscaping equipment with equivalent electric hand-held or push equipment, with certain exceptions for financial or practical reasons.

Beginning September 1, 2029, the bill requires these same agencies, within available appropriations, to prepare bidding documents for contractors that are seeking to do maintenance or landscaping work on state property. The bidding document must require those contractors to use electric hand-held or push lawn mowers, leaf blowers, or lawn trimmers if they are functionally equivalent to their gas counterparts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT

Under the bill, DAS, DEEP, and DOT must buy, lease, or acquire electric hand-held or push lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and lawn trimmers for state agencies for landscaping services on state property if:

1. they are functionally equivalent to gas-powered machines; and
2. similar gas-powered machinery owned, leased, or acquired by the agency has reached the end of its useful life.

The departments may make exceptions for specific machinery if there are financial or practical reasons to use gas-powered equipment

including:

1. abating, or preventing, damage during a declared emergency or for equipment used by first responders to provide emergency services;
2. conducting fire hazard reduction and post-fire recovery activities;
3. managing riparian, forest, or grassland areas; or
4. maintaining public safety.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 10 (03/24/2025)