
**State Government Operations &
Accountability Committee**

HB 1706

Brief Description: Creating the department of archaeology and historic preservation.

Sponsors: Representatives Lantz, McCoy, B. Sullivan, Williams, Moeller, Hunt, Murray and Chase.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Hearing Date: 2/15/05

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) exists within the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development. The agency has approximately 10 employees and is helmed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The OAHP has responsibilities under both federal and state law. For example, under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the OAHP must be consulted with respect to the impacts federal undertakings have on historic properties. This process includes arriving at agreements with proponents of a project in order for them to obtain federal approval. Other federal responsibilities of the office include administering the State Historic Preservation Program and assisting local governments to become eligible for federal grant money.

Other responsibilities of the OAHP include: Nominating historic places to the state and national historic registers, maintaining an inventory of historic properties and archaeological sites, maintaining a computerized mapping system, and engaging in educational outreach.

The Washington State Historical Society

The Washington State Historical Society is one of two historical societies that act as trustees for the state to maintain and preserve articles and properties that illustrate the history of the state. The society is required to establish a competitive process to solicit proposals for and prioritize heritage capital projects for potential funding in the state capital budget. The society also has authority

over the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Committee, which coordinates and provides guidance to the state's observance of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

The OAHP is abolished and its powers and duties are transferred to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The director of the DAHP, who must also serve as the State Historic Preservation Officer, is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The director may appoint deputy and assistant directors as necessary. The DAHP may be subdivided into divisions and may appoint advisory committees or councils. The DAHP is given the authority to adopt rules to keep the state in compliance with federal law. The responsibilities of the DAHP must be carried out in a manner designed to keep the state in compliance with federal law.

The Washington State Historical Society

The responsibilities of the Washington State Historical Society with respect to the capital budget and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Committee expire on June 30, 2007.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 10, 2005..

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.