

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## HB 1120

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning uniform laws.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Pedersen, Rodne, Goodman and Morrell; by request of Uniform Legislation Commission.

**House Committee on Judiciary**  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**Background:**

The Uniform Legislation Commission (Commission) was established to promote uniformity of legislation with other states. The Commission meets with similar commissions from other states at the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to draft and recommend uniform laws for approval and adoption by the various states. The Governor appoints the board of commissioners, which consists of three members who are typically judges, law professors, or other members of the bar. In addition, the Code Reviser serves as a member of the board of commissioners.

The Commission's authorizing statute directs it to examine the specific subjects of marriage and divorce, insolvency, descent and distribution of property, and the execution and probate of wills, in addition to other subjects where the uniformity of states' laws is desirable, but that are outside the jurisdiction of the U.S. Congress.

The commissioners are not compensated for their service but are reimbursed for travel expenses. In addition, expenses are allowed for one annual meeting of the Commission in Washington, and for the members to attend a conference of commissioners outside Washington no more than once per year.

**Summary:**

The Uniform Legislation Commission is renamed the Washington State Uniform Law Commission and its authorizing statute is updated and revised.

Qualifications for members of the Commission are established. A commissioner must be a resident of Washington, a member of a state bar association, and a current or former judge,

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law professor, legislator, or practicing attorney. In addition to the current number of commissioners, the Governor may appoint to the Commission any person who has served at least 20 years on the Commission and who is a life member in the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws or its successor.

The statutory charge of the Commission is modified. The Commission must identify areas of the law where uniformity of state laws is desirable and practicable, and either the U.S. Congress lacks jurisdiction to act or it is preferable that the several states enact the laws.

The Commission is directed to propose to the Legislature adoption of the uniform acts developed with other commissioners at the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	95	0	
Senate	43	0	(Senate amended)
House	97	0	(House concurred)

**Effective:** July 26, 2009