
HOUSE BILL 2596

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Finkbeiner, Orr, Johanson, Eide, Kessler, B. Thomas, Shin, Long, Caver, Bray, Pruitt, Moak, Springer, Cothorn, J. Kohl, L. Johnson and Anderson

Read first time 01/19/94. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to state government; adding a new section to
2 chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that it
5 is now possible and feasible in this electronic age to more widely
6 distribute legislative information by way of electronic communication
7 in order to better inform the public of the matters pending before the
8 legislature and its proceedings. The legislature further finds that it
9 is desirable to make information regarding these matters and
10 proceedings available to the citizens of this state, irrespective of
11 where they reside, in a timely manner and for the least possible cost.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
15 secretary of the senate shall make all of the following information
16 available to the public in electronic form:

17 (a) The legislative calendar, the schedule of legislative committee
18 hearings, a list of matters pending on the floors of both houses of the

1 legislature, and a list of the committees of the legislature and their
2 members;

3 (b) The text of each bill introduced in each current legislative
4 session, including each amended, enrolled, and session law form of each
5 bill;

6 (c) The legislative history of each bill introduced and amended in
7 each current legislative session;

8 (d) The bill status of each bill introduced and amended in each
9 current legislative session;

10 (e) All bill reports prepared by legislative committees in
11 connection with each bill in each current legislative session;

12 (f) All vote information concerning each bill in each current
13 legislative session;

14 (g) Any veto message concerning a bill in each current legislative
15 session;

16 (h) The Washington State Constitution; and

17 (i) All statutes enacted on or after January 1, 1994.

18 (2) The information identified in subsection (1) of this section
19 shall be made available to the public in one or more formats and by one
20 or more means in order to provide the greatest feasible access to the
21 general public in this state. Any person who accesses the information
22 may access all or any part of the information. The information may
23 also be made available by any other means of access that would
24 facilitate public access to the information. The information that is
25 maintained in the legislative information system that is operated and
26 maintained by the legislature shall be made available in the shortest
27 feasible time after the information is available in the information
28 system. The information that is not maintained in the information
29 system shall be made available in the shortest feasible time after it
30 is available to the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
31 secretary of the senate.

32 (3) The electronic digital format of the information identified in
33 subsection (1) of this section must be ASCII US text.

34 (4) Personal information concerning a person who accesses the
35 information may be maintained only for the purpose of providing service
36 to the person.

37 (5) The state may not impose a fee or other charge as a condition
38 of accessing the information identified in subsection (1) of this
39 section.

1 (6) The electronic public access provided by this section is in
2 addition to other electronic or print distribution of the information.

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