
SENATE BILL 5310

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Senators Finkbeiner, Haugen, Heavey, Benton, Franklin and Winsley

Read first time 01/22/97. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to the joint legislative committee on information
2 technology; adding a new section to chapter 43.105 RCW; adding a new
3 chapter to Title 44 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** PURPOSE. The public expects the legislature
6 to address the increasing demand for information technology services
7 while limiting the growth of state spending. It is imperative that the
8 legislature become more aware of and knowledgeable about information
9 technology and that the legislature assume a more proactive role in
10 creating and monitoring information technology policy for all branches
11 of state government. The legislature needs to know the extent to which
12 information technology programs and activities are achieving their
13 purposes and the extent to which these programs and activities are
14 being provided at maximum value for the state.

15 The legislature recognizes that information technology, properly
16 used, can be the state's primary tool both for improving delivery of
17 services and for containing the costs of those services. In order to
18 understand better both the state's current information technology
19 investments and how the state should invest in the future, the

1 legislature must develop a more comprehensive view of its information
2 technology investments. A long-range information technology vision
3 must be developed, and strategies to implement this vision must be
4 formulated to provide substantial and sustainable improvements in state
5 operations, including greater productivity and containment of costs.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** COMMITTEE CREATED--COMPOSITION--DEFINITION.

7 (1) The joint legislative committee on information technology is
8 created to oversee the direction, management, and expenditures of the
9 state's information technology programs and activities. The committee
10 shall consist of four senators and four representatives from the
11 legislature. The senate members of the committee shall be appointed by
12 the president of the senate, and the house of representatives members
13 of the committee shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of
14 representatives. Not more than two members from each house shall be
15 from the same political party. All members shall be appointed before
16 the close of the 1997 session of the legislature and before the close
17 of each regular session during an odd-numbered year thereafter.
18 Members shall be subject to confirmation; the senate members by the
19 senate and the house of representatives members by the house of
20 representatives. Four members of the committee constitute a quorum
21 during meetings, and a majority of members in attendance concurring is
22 sufficient for the decision of all matters and the transaction of all
23 business to be decided or transacted by the committee.

24 (2) As used in this chapter, "committee" means the joint
25 legislative committee on information technology.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** TERMS OF MEMBERS--VACANCIES. Members of the

27 committee who cease to be members of the senate or the house of
28 representatives shall also cease to be members of the committee.
29 Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment by the
30 remaining members. All such vacancies shall be filled from the same
31 political party and from the same house as the member whose seat was
32 vacated.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIPS. On and after

34 the commencement of a succeeding regular session of the legislature
35 during an odd-numbered year, those members of the committee who
36 continue to be members of the senate and house of representatives,

1 respectively, shall continue as members of the committee as provided
2 for in section 3 of this act, and the committee shall continue with all
3 its powers, duties, authorities, records, papers, personnel and staff,
4 and all funds made available for its use.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS. The members of the
6 committee shall serve without additional compensation, but shall be
7 reimbursed in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of
8 the committee or meetings of any subcommittee of the committee, or on
9 other committee business authorized by the committee.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** REIMBURSEMENT TO MEMBERS. All expenses
11 incurred by the committee, including salaries and expenses of
12 employees, shall be paid upon voucher forms as provided by the
13 administrator and signed by the chair or vice-chair of the committee.
14 Vouchers may be drawn on funds appropriated by law for the committee,
15 however the senate and the house of representatives may authorize the
16 committee to draw on funds appropriated by the legislature for
17 legislative expenses.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** OFFICERS AND RULES. The committee shall
19 appoint its own chair, vice-chair, and other officers and to make rules
20 for orderly procedure.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** COMMITTEE'S POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.
22 (1) The committee shall examine, on a continuing basis, the status of
23 information technology in state government, and recommend to the
24 legislature ways to improve the management and use of information
25 technology in state government. Overall, the committee shall serve as
26 the focal point through which the legislature can understand and
27 evaluate the rationale, benefits, drawbacks, and costs of various
28 information technology visions, policies, and activities and take
29 appropriate action. In particular, the committee may:

30 (a) Conduct oversight hearings, including the summoning of
31 witnesses and other means to procure testimony, and investigations as
32 necessary to inform the legislature about specific information
33 technology activities or needs;

34 (b) Assist legislators and others in developing legislation
35 relating to information technology;

1 (c) Present reports to the legislature and other bodies at such
2 times as the committee deems appropriate; and

3 (d) Recommend and introduce legislation to improve the
4 effectiveness and coordination of information technology programs or
5 projects being proposed, implemented, or operated by departments or
6 agencies of the state; this may include legislation to implement,
7 modify, or terminate such programs or projects.

8 (2) The committee shall, with the department of information
9 services and the information services board, review and examine:

10 (a) Major proposals and recommendations related to information
11 technology;

12 (b) Action plans proposed by agencies to achieve information
13 technology goals contained in the state strategic information
14 technology plan adopted by the information services board; and

15 (c) Budget estimates proposed by agencies to implement their action
16 plans and make recommendations thereon to the ways and means committee
17 of the senate and the committee on appropriations of the house of
18 representatives and for transportation agencies' budget estimates to
19 the legislative transportation committee.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE--MINUTES. The
21 committee may make reports to the legislature. The committee shall
22 keep complete minutes of its meetings and hearings.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** WITNESS FEES AND MILEAGE. Each person who
24 appears before the committee, other than a state official or employee,
25 may upon request receive for attendance the fees and mileage provided
26 for witnesses in civil cases in courts of record in accordance with RCW
27 2.40.010, which shall be audited and paid upon the presentation of
28 proper vouchers signed by the person and approved by the secretary and
29 chair of the committee.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR AND OTHER STAFF--
31 EMPLOYMENT--DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATOR. (1) The committee may appoint an
32 officer to be known as the administrator, who shall be the executive
33 and administrative head of the committee and shall assist in its duties
34 and compile information for the committee.

35 (2) The committee may select and employ temporary and permanent
36 personnel and fix their salaries.

1 (3) The duties of the administrator are to:

2 (a) Manage the committee's operations;

3 (b) Assist the several standing committees of the house of
4 representatives and the senate; appear before other legislative
5 committees; and assist any other entity upon instruction by the
6 committee;

7 (c) Provide the legislature with information obtained under the
8 direction of the committee; and

9 (d) Maintain a record of all work performed by the committee or
10 under the direction of the committee and keep and make available all
11 documents, data, and reports submitted to the committee by any other
12 legislative committee.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** EXEMPTION FROM DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
14 SERVICES. The committee is exempt from chapter 43.105 RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** COOPERATION WITH LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES AND
16 OTHERS. The committee shall cooperate, act, and function with
17 Washington state legislative committees and may cooperate with the
18 councils or committees of other states similar to this committee and
19 with other interstate research organizations.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** CAPTIONS NOT LAW. Captions used in this
21 chapter are not any part of the law.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** If any provision of this act or its
23 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
24 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
25 persons or circumstances is not affected.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 The joint legislative committee on information technology is exempt
29 from this chapter.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** Sections 1 through 15 of this act
31 constitute a new chapter in Title 44 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 immediately.

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