

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1132

Relating to the capital furnishings preservation committee.

Brief title

Hearing Date: 1/29/99

Reps Romero Skinner

Sponsor(s)

Staff: Scot MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone: 786-7106

BACKGROUND:

There is currently a committee group that has charge of historical artifacts on the capitol campus. Historical furnishings on the capitol campus have been lost or sold to former elected officials. All furniture, artwork, and other items are currently subject to authority of the Department of General Administration and subject to general administrative procedures.

Current practice under these procedures allows for the sale of surplus property of state elected officials unless an item valued less than \$1,000 is directly claimed as personal property, which in some way depicts or represents the office which he or she has served, or by being sold to an elected official or leaving in a private residence as used equipment.

SUMMARY:

Establish the Capital Furnishings Preservation Committee to recover and preserve existing and historical furnishings of the state capitol building and prevent loss of historical furnishings. The committee is also to review and advise on future remodeling and restoration projects pertaining to historical furnishings.

Grant the Capital Furnishings Preservation Committee the authority to decide whether furnishings 50 years old are historical furnishings. Authority extends to employees of justice and statewide elected officials in the legislative building.

Committee membership defined as one member from each party to be appointed by the respective caucus and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and one member from each party to be appointed by the respective caucus and the Secretary of the Senate or the Governor or the Governor's designee.

Lieutenant Governor, the Lieutenant Governor's designee, representative of the Office of the Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner, representative of the State Supreme Court, representative of the Washington State Historical Society, the Department of General Administration and the Thurston County Planning Council, each appointed by the Governor and three private citizens appointed by the Governor.

State capital buildings defined as the buildings on the capital campus. Historic furnishings defined to include furniture and artwork over 50 years old.

Legislation includes a section which states that historic furnishings illustrating the history of the state should be maintained and preserved for the people of the state. It is also stated that the purpose of the act is to increase the awareness of the public and state employees about the significance of the furnishings in the state capital buildings as envisioned by the original architects.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which it is passed.