
SENATE BILL 5726

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Spanel, West, Snyder, Hale, Franklin, B. Sheldon and Johnson

Read first time 02/01/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to statutory committees of the legislature;
2 amending RCW 44.28.060, 44.28.065, 44.44.030, 44.48.120, 44.68.040, and
3 44.68.050; adding a new section to chapter 44.04 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 44.28 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.44
5 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.48 RCW; and adding a new
6 section to chapter 44.68 RCW.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The joint legislative audit and review committee, the joint
11 committee on pension policy, the legislative evaluation and
12 accountability program committee, and the joint legislative systems
13 committee are subject to such operational policies, procedures, and
14 oversight as are deemed necessary by the facilities and operations
15 committee of the senate and the executive rules committee of the house
16 of representatives to ensure operational consistency among the agencies
17 of the legislative branch. As used in this section, "operational
18 policies, procedures, and oversight" includes the development of

1 biennial budgets, personnel policies and compensation plans, selection
2 of a chief administrator, facilities, contracts, and expenditures.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.28 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The administration of the joint legislative audit and review
6 committee is subject to section 1 of this act.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 44.28.060 and 1996 c 288 s 7 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 The members of the joint committee shall form an executive
10 committee consisting of one member from each of the four major
11 political caucuses, which shall include a chair and a vice-chair. The
12 chair and vice-chair shall serve for a period not to exceed two years.
13 The chair and the vice-chair may not be members of the same political
14 party. The chair shall alternate between the members of the majority
15 parties in the senate and the house of representatives.

16 Subject to section 1 of this act, the executive committee is
17 responsible for performing all general administrative and personnel
18 duties assigned to it in the rules and procedures adopted by the joint
19 committee, as well as other duties delegated to it by the joint
20 committee. The executive committee shall recommend applicants for the
21 position of the legislative auditor to the membership of the joint
22 committee. The legislative auditor shall be hired with the approval of
23 a majority of the membership of the joint committee. Subject to
24 section 1 of this act, the executive committee shall set the salary of
25 the legislative auditor.

26 The joint committee shall adopt rules and procedures for its
27 orderly operation. The joint committee may create subcommittees to
28 perform duties under this chapter.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 44.28.065 and 1996 c 288 s 8 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 Subject to section 1 of this act, the legislative auditor shall:

32 (1) Establish and manage the office of the joint legislative audit
33 and review committee to carry out the functions of this chapter;

34 (2) Direct the audit and review functions described in this chapter
35 and ensure that performance audits are performed in accordance with the

1 "Government Auditing Standards" published by the comptroller general of
2 the United States as applicable to the scope of the audit;

3 (3) Make findings and recommendations to the joint committee and
4 under its direction to the committees of the state legislature
5 concerning the organization and operation of state agencies and the
6 expenditure of state funds by units of local government;

7 (4) In consultation with and with the approval of the executive
8 committee, hire staff necessary to carry out the purposes of this
9 chapter. Employee salaries, other than the legislative auditor, shall
10 be set by the legislative auditor with the approval of the executive
11 committee;

12 (5) Assist the several standing committees of the house and senate
13 in consideration of legislation affecting state departments and their
14 efficiency; appear before other legislative committees; and assist any
15 other legislative committee upon instruction by the joint legislative
16 audit and review committee;

17 (6) Provide the legislature with information obtained under the
18 direction of the joint legislative audit and review committee;

19 (7) Maintain a record of all work performed by the legislative
20 auditor under the direction of the joint legislative audit and review
21 committee and keep and make available all documents, data, and reports
22 submitted to the legislative auditor by any legislative committee.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 44.44 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 The administration of the joint committee on pension policy is
26 subject to section 1 of this act.

27 **Sec. 6.** RCW 44.44.030 and 1987 c 25 s 2 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (1) Subject to section 1 of this act, the state actuary shall have
30 the authority to select and employ such research, technical, clerical
31 personnel, and consultants as the actuary deems necessary, whose
32 salaries shall be fixed by the actuary and approved by the joint
33 committee on pension policy, and who shall be exempt from the
34 provisions of the state civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW.

35 (2) All actuarial valuations and experience studies performed by
36 the office of the state actuary shall be signed by a member of the
37 American academy of actuaries. If the state actuary is not such a

1 member, the state actuary, after approval by the committee, shall
2 contract for a period not to exceed two years with a member of the
3 American academy of actuaries to assist in developing actuarial
4 valuations and experience studies.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 44.48 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The administration of the legislative evaluation and accountability
8 program committee is subject to section 1 of this act.

9 **Sec. 8.** RCW 44.48.120 and 1977 ex.s. c 373 s 12 are each amended
10 to read as follows:

11 The committee is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint an
12 officer to be known as the LEAP administrator who shall be the
13 executive officer of the committee and assist in its duties and shall
14 compile information for the committee.

15 Subject to section 1 of this act, the committee is hereby
16 authorized and empowered to select and employ temporary and permanent
17 personnel and fix their salaries.

18 The duties of the administrator shall be as follows:

19 (1) To manage the LEAP operations.

20 (2) To assist the several standing committees of the house and
21 senate; to appear before other legislative committees; and to assist
22 any other legislative committee upon instruction by the committee.

23 (3) To provide the legislature with information obtained under the
24 direction of the committee.

25 (4) To maintain a record of all work performed by the administrator
26 under the direction of the committee and to keep and make available all
27 documents, data, and reports submitted to the administrator by any
28 legislative committee.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 44.68 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 The administration of the joint legislative systems committee is
32 subject to section 1 of this act.

33 **Sec. 10.** RCW 44.68.040 and 1986 c 61 s 4 are each amended to read
34 as follows:

35 Subject to section 1 of this act:

1 (1) The systems committee, after consultation with the
2 administrative committee, shall employ a legislative systems
3 coordinator. The coordinator shall serve at the pleasure of the
4 systems committee, which shall fix the coordinator's salary.

5 (2) The coordinator shall serve as the executive and administrative
6 head of the center, and shall assist the administrative committee in
7 managing the information processing and communications systems of the
8 legislature as directed by the administrative committee.

9 **Sec. 11.** RCW 44.68.050 and 1986 c 61 s 5 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 The administrative committee shall, subject to the approval of the
12 systems committee and subject to section 1 of this act:

13 (1) Adopt policies, procedures, and standards regarding the
14 information processing and communications systems of the legislature;

15 (2) Establish appropriate charges for services, equipment, and
16 publications provided by the legislative information processing and
17 communications systems, applicable to legislative and nonlegislative
18 users as determined by the administrative committee;

19 (3) Employ or engage and fix the compensation for personnel
20 required to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

21 (4) Enter into contracts for (a) the sale, exchange, or acquisition
22 of equipment, supplies, services, and facilities required to carry out
23 the purposes of this chapter and (b) the distribution of legislative
24 information;

25 (5) Generally assist the systems committee in carrying out its
26 responsibilities under this chapter, as directed by the systems
27 committee.

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