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**State Government Committee**

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**HB 1531**

**Brief Description:** Requiring the governor's signature on significant legislative rules.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Grant, Holmquist, Kessler, Buck, Linville, Haigh, Ruderman, Armstrong, O'Brien, Miloscia, Lovick, Newhouse, Morris, Gombosky, Hatfield, Chandler, Veloria, McMahan, Quall, Schindler, Blake, Shabro, Talcott, Clibborn, Schual-Berke, Bush, Schoesler, Upthegrove, Hinkle, Condotta, Skinner, Sehlin, Bailey, Woods, Kristiansen and Alexander.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires the Governor to sign all significant legislative rules adopted by agencies under his authority.

**Hearing Date:** 2/18/03

**Staff:** Katie Blinn (786-7114).

**Background:**

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) details certain requirements that must be satisfied in order for an agency to adopt a significant legislative rule. A significant legislative rule is one that:

- adopts substantive provisions of law, the violation of which subjects the violator to a penalty or sanction;
- establishes, alters, or revokes any qualification or standard for the issuance, suspension, or revocation of a license or permit; or
- adopts a new policy or regulatory program, or makes significant amendments to a policy or regulatory program.

Significant legislative rules do not include emergency rules, procedural rules, interpretative rules, or rules adopted through expedited rulemaking. Examples of the requirements for adoption of a significant legislative rule include a cost/benefit analysis, a determination of whether the rule imposes more stringent requirements on private entities than on public entities, and a determination of whether the rule differs from federal regulations and law. The following agencies must satisfy the APA requirements in order to adopt a significant legislative rule:

- The Department of Ecology;
- The Department of Labor and Industries;
- The Department of Health;
- The Department of Revenue;
- The Department of Social and Health Services;
- The Department of Natural Resources;
- The Employment Security Department;
- The Forest Practices Board;
- The Office of the Insurance Commissioner; and
- The Department of Fish and Wildlife

The final order by which any rule is adopted by an agency must contain the date the agency adopted the rule, a concise description of the purpose of the rule, a reference to all rules repealed, amended or suspended by the rule, a reference to the specific authority, statutory or otherwise, authorizing the agency to adopt the rule, any findings required for adoption of the rule, and the effective date.

**Summary of Bill:**

For significant legislative rules adopted by agencies under the authority of the Governor, the final order of adoption must also include the Governor's signature.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 11, 2003.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.