

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5274

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations & Elections, February 11, 2003  
Ways & Means, March 10, 2003

**Title:** An act relating to funding of the archives division.

**Brief Description:** Revising funding of the archives division.

**Sponsors:** Senators Roach, Hale, Horn, Stevens and Haugen; by request of Secretary of State.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations & Elections: 2/11/03 [DP].  
Ways & Means: 3/10/03 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Roach, Chair; Stevens, Vice Chair; Kastama and McCaslin.

**Staff:** Ronda Larson (786-7429)

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5274 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Rossi, Chair; Hewitt, Vice Chair; Zarelli, Vice Chair; Brown, Doumit, Fairley, Hale, Honeyford, Johnson, Parlette, Poulsen, Roach, Sheahan, B. Sheldon and Winsley.

**Staff:** Steve Jones (786-7440)

**Background:** In 1981, the Legislature created the Division of Archives and Records Management (division) in the Office of the Secretary of State. The division's job is to manage and safeguard public records. The State Archivist administers the division. The division collects and preserves historical state government records at the division's main Olympia office. The division collects and preserves local government records at five regional branch archive facilities, which are in Bellevue, Bellingham, Cheney, Ellensburg, and Olympia.

The funding for operation of the division comes from the archives and records management account in the state treasury. This account, in turn, receives its funds from three sources: (1) charges for storing, copying, microfilming, and other services that the division collects from its public and private users; (2) a \$20 surcharge that judgment debtors pay in superior court when they satisfy warrants for unpaid taxes or liabilities; and (3) two \$1 surcharges that

the county auditors collect for each instrument they record, including such things as deeds and debt.

Under a specific allotment procedure, the judgment debtor revenue that comes into the account funds the division's costs regarding disaster recovery, essential records protection, and training of local governments in recordkeeping. Under the same allotment procedure, the revenue from one of the recorded instruments surcharge funds a myriad of services such as microfilm inspection, storage, and archival preservation. The revenue from the other recorded instruments surcharge funds construction of an eastern Washington regional archives facility.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The imaging account is created. The account collects fees from the division's services regarding copying and imaging (e.g., scanning). The revenue then exclusively funds the division's costs for providing such services. The account is not subject to appropriation, but the account is still subject to allotment procedure.

The local government archives account is created. It receives the money that previously came to the archives and records management account from the judgment debtor surcharge and the county auditor recording surcharges. The division's services that were previously funded from such revenues are still funded from such revenues. Likewise, the fees collected from such services also now go into this new account. The account is subject to appropriation.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The local government archives account is made subject to appropriation.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The funding revision will streamline procedures and improve flexibility for funding the archives program. Eighty percent of the funds are already collected by local governments. This bill provides a mechanism to disperse the funds more efficiently and thereby allows the Secretary of State to be more responsive to local government requests.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Jerry Handfield, Diana Rae Bradrick and Jeff Wise, Archives Division of the Office of the Secretary of State; Karen Flynn, Kitsap County Auditor; Greg Kimsey, Clark County Auditor and member of the Washington Association of County Auditors; Tristan Wise, Office of Financial Management.