

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5742

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections, February 13, 2007

Title: An act relating to civil service commissions for sheriffs' offices.

Brief Description: Creating a five-member option for civil service commissions for sheriffs' offices.

Sponsors: Senator Brown.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 2/13/07 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Fairley, Chair; Oemig, Vice Chair; Roach, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, Kline and Swecker.

Staff: Sharon Swanson (786-7447)

Background: The civil service commission (Commission) for sheriffs' offices consists of a three person commission appointed by the board of county commissioners for the county within which the sheriffs' office is located. Commissioners serve six year terms. Each Commission has multiple duties and responsibilities, including the duty to:

- make suitable rules and regulations providing in detail the manner in which examinations may be held, and promotions, appointments, suspensions, and discharges must be made;
- inspect all offices, departments, places, positions, and employments under the Commission's jurisdiction;
- hear and determine appeals or complaints respecting the allocation of positions or the rejection of an examinee;
- provide for, formulate, and hold competitive tests to determine the relative qualifications of a person who seeks employment in any class or position under the Commission's jurisdiction.

The Commission must meet at least once per month. At the time of appointment not more than two commissioners must be adherents of the same political party. Two members of the Commission constitute a quorum and the votes of any two members concurring is sufficient for the decision of all matters transacted by the Commission.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: A civil serve commission for sheriffs' offices consisting of five members may be established by ordinance.

If a five member commission is established, the terms of the present commission members do not change.

Three members of a five member commission constitute a quorum, and the votes of three members concurring is sufficient for the decision of all matters transacted by the commission.

At the time of appointment of the two additional commissioners, no more than three commissioners may be adherents of the same political party.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is a good bill that will allow a five-member option for civil service commissions for sheriffs' offices. At times, it can be difficult to get a two-person quorum with a three-member commission, so this bill should help

Persons Testifying: PRO: Mike Burgess, Spokane County.