
HOUSE BILL 2386

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Taylor, Alexander, Angel, Shea, Johnson, Ross, Dammeier, Klippert, Schmick, Crouse, Short, Cox, Warnick, Haler, Hinkle, Orcutt, Herrera, Smith, McCune, Williams, and Chase

Read first time 04/24/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a seventy-two hour budget review
2 period prior to hearings or votes on appropriation and revenue bills;
3 adding new sections to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

7 The legislature finds that public participation in the legislative
8 process improves the quality of proposed legislation by allowing the
9 opportunity for its detailed review by interested parties. The
10 opportunity for a detailed review by the public prior to hearings or
11 votes on legislation helps increase public trust in government and
12 enhances respect for the legislature by ensuring that its operation is
13 conducted with the openness, order, and dignity benefiting Washington
14 state. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to prohibit
15 hearings or votes on appropriation and/or revenue-related bills until
16 seventy-two hours after the bill's public introduction.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 The definitions in this section apply to sections 1 and 3 of this
2 act:

3 (1) "Amendment" means any proposed change to a bill.

4 (2) "Appropriation-related bill" means any bill authorizing an
5 appropriation of funds for state operating, capital, or transportation
6 expenditures.

7 (3) "Publicly available" means posting a bill on the legislature's
8 web site and its publication in a bill report, committee report, or
9 conference report.

10 (4) "Revenue-related bill" means any bill raising revenue for
11 operating, capital, or transportation expenditures.

12 (5) "Striking amendment" means any amendment removing everything
13 after the enacting clause of a bill and inserting new language.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) Hearings or votes on an appropriation-related bill or revenue-
17 related bill are prohibited until seventy-two hours after the bill is
18 made publicly available. The seventy-two hour time period excludes
19 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays except when the legislature is in
20 session on such a day.

21 (2) Amendments offered to an appropriation-related bill or revenue-
22 related bill may not be considered in order unless made publicly
23 available twenty-four hours prior to any vote. The twenty-four hour
24 time period excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays except when the
25 legislature is in session on such a day.

26 (3) Striking amendments may not be considered in order unless made
27 publicly available forty-eight hours prior to any vote. The forty-
28 eight hour time period excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays except
29 when the legislature is in session on such a day.

30 (4) The time periods specified in this section may be waived only
31 with a two-thirds vote of the full committee or legislative body
32 considering the appropriation-related bill or revenue-related bill.

33 (5) Whenever the time periods specified in this section are waived
34 pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, the following section must
35 be added to the text of the bill and the bill report:

36 "NEW SECTION. **Sec.** (insert appropriate section number). The

1 (insert name of full committee or legislative body) has waived the
2 people's right for a detailed review of this bill as required by the
3 seventy-two hour budget review act."

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the
5 seventy-two hour budget review act.

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