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SENATE BILL 5121

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Senators Kline and Kohl-Welles; by request of Statute Law Committee  
Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to editorial standards for the publication of the  
2 Revised Code of Washington; and amending RCW 1.08.015 and 1.08.017.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 1.08.015 and 1961 c 246 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            Subject to such general policies as may be promulgated by the  
7 committee and to the general supervision of the committee, the reviser  
8 shall:

9            (1) Codify for consolidation into the Revised Code of Washington  
10 all laws of a general and permanent nature heretofore or hereafter  
11 enacted by the legislature, and assign permanent numbers as provided by  
12 law to all new titles, chapters, and sections so added to the revised  
13 code.

14            (2) Edit and revise such laws for such consolidation, to the extent  
15 deemed necessary or desirable by the reviser and without changing the  
16 meaning of any such law, in the following respects only:

17            (a) Make capitalization uniform with that followed generally in the  
18 revised code.

1 (b) Make chapter or section division and subdivision designations  
2 uniform with that followed in the revised code.

3 (c) Substitute for the term "this act," where necessary, the term  
4 "section," "part," "code," "chapter," or "title," or reference to  
5 specific section or chapter numbers, as the case may require.

6 (d) Substitute for reference to a section of an "act," the proper  
7 code section number reference.

8 (e) Substitute for "as provided in the preceding section" and other  
9 phrases of similar import, the proper code section number references.

10 (f) Substitute the proper calendar date for "effective date of this  
11 act," "date of passage of this act," and other phrases of similar  
12 import.

13 (g) Strike out figures where merely a repetition of written words,  
14 and substitute, where deemed advisable for uniformity, written words  
15 for figures.

16 (h) Rearrange any misplaced statutory material, incorporate any  
17 omitted statutory material as well as correct manifest errors in  
18 spelling, and manifest clerical or typographical errors, or errors by  
19 way of additions or omissions.

20 (i) Correct manifest errors in references, by chapter or section  
21 number, to other laws.

22 (j) Correct manifest errors or omissions in numbering or  
23 renumbering sections of the revised code.

24 (k) (~~Divide long sections into two or more sections, and~~)  
25 Rearrange the order of sections to conform to such logical arrangement  
26 of subject matter as may most generally be followed in the revised  
27 code, and alphabetize definition sections, when to do so will not  
28 change the meaning or effect of such sections.

29 (l) Change the wording of section captions, if any, and provide  
30 captions to new chapters and sections.

31 (m) Strike provisions manifestly obsolete.

32 (3) Create new code titles, chapters, and sections of the Revised  
33 Code of Washington, or otherwise revise the title, chapter and  
34 sectional organization of the code, all as may be required from time to  
35 time, to effectuate the orderly and logical arrangement of the  
36 statutes. Such new titles, chapters, and sections, and organizational  
37 revisions, shall have the same force and effect as the ninety-one

1 titles originally enacted and designated as the "Revised Code of  
2 Washington" pursuant to the code adoption acts codified in chapter 1.04  
3 RCW.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 1.08.017 and 1955 c 235 s 3 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The reviser may omit from the code all titles to acts, enacting  
7 and repealing clauses, preambles, declarations of emergency,  
8 severability, and validity and construction sections unless, in a  
9 particular instance, it may be necessary to retain such to preserve the  
10 full intent of the law. The omission of validity or construction  
11 sections is not intended to, nor shall it change, or be considered as  
12 changing, the effect to be given thereto in construing legislation of  
13 which such validity and construction sections were a part. Any section  
14 so omitted, other than repealing, emergency, severability, or validity  
15 provisions, shall be referred to or set forth as an annotation to the  
16 applicable sections of the act as codified.

17 (2) The reviser may remove annotations that have appeared in the  
18 published Revised Code of Washington for more than ten years, unless in  
19 a particular instance, it may be necessary to retain such to preserve  
20 the full intent of the law. Any annotations removed under this  
21 subsection shall be retained and available in the electronic copy of  
22 the Revised Code of Washington available on the code reviser web site.

23 (3) Section captions, part headings, subheadings, tables of  
24 contents, and indexes appearing in legislative bills shall not be  
25 considered any part of the law, and the reviser may omit such  
26 provisions from the Revised Code of Washington and annotations unless,  
27 in a particular instance, it may be necessary to retain such to  
28 preserve the full intent of the law.

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