

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1479

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### As Amended by the Senate

**Title:** An act relating to the publications of the statute law committee.

**Brief Description:** Revising the publication requirements of the statute law committee.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Goodman and Rodne; by request of Statute Law Committee.

#### Brief History:

##### Committee Activity:

Judiciary: 2/2/11, 2/3/11 [DP].

##### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/26/11, 97-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 3/28/11, 44-3.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows the Code Reviser to make available, without charge, digital copies of the session laws, the Revised Code of Washington, the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and the Washington State Register (Register) to various entities and on the legislative or Code Reviser website for public use, and provide a paper copy of the session laws, the WAC, and the Register upon request.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Pedersen, Chair; Goodman, Vice Chair; Shea, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Eddy, Frockt, Kirby, Klippert, Nealey, Orwall, Rivers and Roberts.

**Staff:** Morgan Powell (786-7119) and Trudes Tango (786-7384).

#### Background:

The Statute Law Committee (SLC) is responsible for compiling and printing a number of publications, including the session laws, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), the

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Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and the Washington State Register (Register). The SLC has an obligation to promote widespread access to its materials in both digital and print formats.

The session laws consist of all the bills that were enacted into law during the legislative session and initiatives adopted by the people in the preceding year. The RCW is the compilation of all permanent laws now in force. The WAC is a codification of regulations of executive branch agencies, arranged by subject or agency. The SLC distributes free copies of the session laws and the RCW to designated persons and entities.

The Register is a publication, published twice a month, that includes a variety of information relating to the activities of state government, such as notices of proposed rules, emergency and permanently adopted rules, and public meetings of state agencies. The SLC may publish the Register on the legislative or Code Reviser website, but must provide a paper copy of any issue of the Register upon request.

### **Summary of Bill:**

Each member of the Legislature may receive one set of the RCW and supplements of the RCW on digital media, as opposed to paper copies, without charge during their term of office. Current digital copies of the session laws, the RCW, the WAC, and the Register will be made available on the legislative or Code Reviser website without charge for permanent public access. The SLC will provide digital authentication for any publication in a digital format if such authentication does not interfere with public access.

The official copy of the WAC may be published in digital format. The Code Reviser can charge a reasonable fee for providing a paper copy of any section, sections, or the entire copy of the WAC that is requested. The Code Reviser will provide a limited number of free paper copies of the WAC to libraries or institutions for access and archival purposes.

The Register can be purchased in print or digital form at a fixed price. Access to the Register, as required by state law, is satisfied when the Register or compilation is published on the legislative or Code Reviser website. The Register is no longer required to be made available, in printed form, to state elected officials, the Secretary of the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the House, county boards of law library trustees, and to the Olympia press corps library.

The SLC may publish the official copy of the session laws on the legislative or Code Reviser website in digital format. The SLC may provide free digital or printed copies of the session laws to selected federal, state, and local agencies with special consideration given to institutions and libraries where internet access is limited or unavailable. The SLC will sell and deliver surplus paper sets of the session laws. The SLC will provide a paper copy of any individual session law or the compiled session laws of any session for a reasonable fee.

The SLC may publish the session laws, 75 days after final adjournment of the Legislature for that year, on the legislative or Code Reviser website and publish as many copies in paper format as deemed necessary by the SLC.

**EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S):**

The Senate amendment allows the Code Reviser's Office to charge a "minimal fee" (rather than a "reasonable fee") to cover the costs of printing and mailing paper copies of materials.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) In the past, the Office of the Code Reviser was able to cover the costs associated with the distribution of paper copies of the session laws, the WAC, and the Register. In the near future, the Office of the Code Reviser will be unable to support the distribution of paper copies of such materials. The bill will allow the Code Reviser to use discretion on how to distribute such materials in the future. The Statute Law Committee has an important duty to maintain and make available a digital database of the specified materials it produces.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Goodman, prime sponsor; and Kyle Thiessen, Office of the Code Reviser.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.