

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5858

As of February 6, 2015

Title: An act relating to establishing the state cannabis industry and economic development committee.

Brief Description: Establishing the state cannabis industry and economic development committee.

Sponsors: Senators Kohl-Welles and Rivers.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Commerce & Labor:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Staff: Richard Rodger (786-7461)

Background: In 1998 voters approved Initiative 692 which permitted the use of marijuana for medical purposes by qualifying patients. In 2012 the voters of the state approved Initiative 502, which legalized the recreational use of marijuana and established a new regulatory and licensing structure for marijuana-related businesses.

Summary of Bill: A temporary State Cannabis Industry and Economic Development Committee is established to coordinate activities and monitor new developments, address evolving issues, submit policy recommendations, and as needed, make recommendations regarding additional legislation.

The committee duties include developing a state comprehensive plan to promote and further develop the cannabis-related businesses; recommending a state financial system that maximizes public safety and complies with federal guidance; developing a method to monitor and assess the industry's economic returns to the state; monitoring changes in federal law; recommending options for distribution of tax revenue; and making recommendations regarding a statewide cannabis industry and economic development coordinator.

The committee includes the following:

- two members of the Senate;
- two members of the House of Representatives;

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- one representative of the departments of Health, Commerce, Revenue, Agriculture, the Office of Financial Management, and the Liquor Control Board, to be appointed by each agency;
- twelve members representing a balance of interests relating to marijuana, hemp, and other associated businesses and industries, to be appointed by the Governor; and
- two representatives of the Association of Washington Cities and the Association of Counties.

Staff support to the committee is provided by Senate Committee Services, the House of Representatives Office of Program Research, and the represented state agencies.

Preliminary recommendations of the committee are due by December 15, 2015, and a final report by January 10, 2017. The legislation expires January 31, 2017.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: Yes.

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