Judiciary Committee

SB 5316

Title: An act relating to the removal of provisions that are no longer necessary for continued publication in the Revised Code of Washington.

Brief Description: Concerning the removal of provisions that are no longer necessary for continued publication in the Revised Code of Washington.

Sponsors: Senators Fortunato, Rossi, Rivers, Miloscia, Padden, Becker, Braun, Angel, Warnick, Schoesler, Brown, Zeiger and Wilson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Decodifies, recodifies, repeals, or amends a number of statutes.

Hearing Date: 3/9/17

Staff: Audrey Frey (786-7289).

Background:

State laws are found in the session laws and in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), which is codified and published by the Code Reviser under the supervision of the Statute Law Committee, a legislative agency. The RCW is a codification of all state laws of a general and permanent nature. Laws of a limited or temporary nature are typically not codified.

Decodification. Decodified statutes are removed from publication in the RCW but remain in effect. Decodification is often used to remove language such as effective dates, emergency clauses, or severability clauses from the RCW. Decodified statutes are listed in the RCW dispositions and remain published in session law.

Recodification. Recodification is used to move an RCW section from one chapter to another.

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.

Repeal. Repealed statutes are no longer effective going forward and are removed from publication in the RCW. Repealing a statute is often done to eliminate an authority or directive, or to remove defunct or outdated statutes. For example, statues that mandate reports or tasks that have already been completed, or statutes that contain authority which has not been used for a substantial period of time, can be considered outdated or no longer functional.

Summary of Bill:

A number of statutes are decodified, recodified, repealed, or amended, including:
- decodification of intent sections, codification instructions, effective date clauses, severability clauses, savings clauses, and transfers of functions;
- recodification of a section regarding the inspection of public meeting minutes;
- repeal of completed reporting requirements, one-time funding disbursements, pilot projects, program function transfers, task forces or boards that no longer exist, and accounts or programs that have been unused for a substantial period; and
- amendments to statutes to account for the decodification, recodification, and repeal of other statutes.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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