

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5490

As of January 6, 2022

Title: An act relating to creating the interbranch advisory committee.

Brief Description: Creating the interbranch advisory committee.

Sponsors: Senators Pedersen and Padden.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 1/11/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Interbranch Advisory Committee (Committee) with membership from the legislative, judicial, and executive branches; cities; counties; and court clerks.
- Fosters cooperation, communication, and planning on mutual concerns between the three branches of government.
- Suggests ways to provide access to justice and to court services in a just and equitable manner.
- Requires the Committee to submit a recommendation to the Legislature on whether the Committee should be renewed or changed.
- Expires the Committee on January 1, 2026.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Staff: Tim Ford (786-7423)

Background: The political authority of the state is divided into the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and subdivisions of cities and counties. The separation of powers doctrine refers to the division of governmental authority into these distinct

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

branches and the limitation of any branch from exercising the core functions of another branch. Interactions between these separate but coequal branches of government are generally conducted through the formal processes and proceedings of each branch. These formal processes are defined and understood by application through the state constitution, statutes, and rules adopted by each branch.

Summary of Bill: The Interbranch Advisory Committee (Committee) is created to foster cooperation, communication, coordination, collaboration, and planning regarding issues of mutual concern among the three branches of state government. Issues of mutual concern include but are not limited to:

- funding legislative mandates;
- initiatives related to access to justice;
- issues of local concern;
- courthouse security; and
- court technology infrastructure.

An additional purpose of the Committee is to suggest ways to provide access to justice and to court services in a just and equitable manner.

The Committee is composed of the following members:

- two legislative members from the House;
- two legislative members from the Senate;
- a representative of the Governor's office;
- a representative of the Attorney General;
- a representative of the cities;
- a representative of the counties;
- a representative of court clerks; and
- six members of the judicial branch.

The Committee will select co-chairs of one legislative member and one judicial member. The Committee may set its own schedule.

The Committee shall submit a recommendation by November 1, 2024, to the appropriate legislative committees on whether the Committee should be renewed or changed in any way.

This act expires January 1, 2026.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: Yes.

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