
SENATE BILL 5283

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Wilson, L., Wilson, J., Brown, Gildon, Mullet, Muzzall, Padden, Schoesler, Short, and Wagoner

Read first time 01/19/21. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the use of title-only bills;
2 adding a new section to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the use of
6 title-only bills represents a clear circumvention of the legislative
7 process and must be prohibited. The introduction of empty pieces of
8 legislation as placeholders, with substantive content to be filled in
9 later, does not promote legislative transparency or foster public
10 trust. The legislature finds title-only bills have been used as last-
11 minute vehicles to advance major policy changes with little-to-no
12 notice to the public or even to the legislators elected to vote on
13 them. Whether intentional or not, such tactics disregard the
14 constitutional restrictions meant to ensure adequate public notice
15 and understanding of legislative action.

16 The legislature therefore intends to prohibit the use of title-
17 only bills.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 The introduction of title-only bills is prohibited. For purposes
2 of this section, a title-only bill is a legislative bill that does
3 not create new statutory language in addition to the title of the
4 bill or lay forth the full changes to any act or sections of law
5 intended by the bill.

--- **END** ---