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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5490

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State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Pedersen, Padden, Dhingra, and Mullet)

READ FIRST TIME 01/14/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the interbranch advisory committee;  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 2 RCW; and providing an expiration  
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** There is created an interbranch advisory  
6 committee consisting of the following members:

7 (1) Two legislative members, one from each of the two largest  
8 caucuses of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of  
9 the house of representatives. One member shall be a member of a  
10 committee having jurisdiction over general civil or criminal law  
11 matters and the other member shall be a member of a committee having  
12 jurisdiction over the state operating budget;

13 (2) Two legislative members, one from each of the two largest  
14 caucuses of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate. One  
15 member shall be a member of a committee having jurisdiction over  
16 general civil or criminal law matters and the other member shall be a  
17 member of a committee having jurisdiction over the state operating  
18 budget;

19 (3) One person representing the governor's office, appointed by  
20 the governor;

1 (4) One person representing the attorney general's office,  
2 appointed by the attorney general;

3 (5) One person representing cities, appointed by the association  
4 of Washington cities;

5 (6) One person who is an elected county councilmember  
6 representing counties, appointed by the Washington state association  
7 of counties;

8 (7) One person representing court clerks, appointed by the  
9 Washington state association of county clerks;

10 (8) Eight members from the judicial branch, appointed by the  
11 chief justice in consultation with the board of judicial  
12 administration, supreme court, court of appeals, superior court  
13 judges association, association of Washington superior court  
14 administrators, Washington association of juvenile court  
15 administrators, district and municipal court judges association,  
16 district and municipal court management association, administrative  
17 office of the courts, and access to justice board; and

18 (9) One person representing the office of public defense and one  
19 person representing the office of civil legal aid, who shall serve as  
20 nonvoting members. Nonvoting members must be consulted by the  
21 interbranch advisory committee as needed.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The purpose of the interbranch advisory  
23 committee is to foster cooperation, communication, coordination,  
24 collaboration, and planning regarding issues of mutual concern among  
25 the three branches of state government. An additional purpose of the  
26 committee is to suggest ways to provide access to justice and to  
27 court services in a just and equitable manner.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The interbranch advisory committee  
29 must select cochairs at its initial meeting. One cochair must be a  
30 legislative member and the other cochair must be a judicial member.  
31 The committee may set its own meeting schedule. The committee shall  
32 discuss issues of mutual concern between the branches. Examples  
33 include, but are not limited to:

- 34 (a) Funding legislative mandates;
- 35 (b) Initiatives related to access to justice;
- 36 (c) Issues of local concern;
- 37 (d) Courthouse security; and
- 38 (e) Court technology infrastructure.

1 (2) Staff support for the committee will be provided by the  
2 administrative office of the courts. The office of financial  
3 management is directed to provide support as requested by the  
4 cochairs.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The interbranch advisory committee shall  
6 submit a recommendation to the legislative committees having  
7 jurisdiction over general civil or criminal law matters and having  
8 jurisdiction over the state operating budget by November 1, 2024, on  
9 whether the committee should be legislatively renewed or changed in  
10 any way.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This chapter expires January 1, 2026.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act  
13 constitute a new chapter in Title 2 RCW.

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