
HOUSE BILL 1606

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Engell, Bernbaum, Orcutt, Corry, Reeves, Waters, Ramel, Parshley, Reed, Ormsby, and Nance

Read first time 01/27/25. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to state employee access to peer-reviewed
2 journals; creating new sections; making an appropriation; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that state agencies
6 often do not have comprehensive electronic access to many peer-
7 reviewed journals. As a result, state employees often must purchase
8 specific manuscripts, outsource searches to other entities, or
9 physically visit a university library in order to access many peer-
10 reviewed journals. Locating a specific manuscript can take hours of
11 staff time and is neither an efficient nor a cost-effective use of
12 state resources. Other states have created statewide collectives for
13 providing access to peer-reviewed journals, resulting in both
14 increased access to peer-reviewed journals as well as significant
15 cost savings. In light of the benefits that other states have
16 experienced in connection with statewide subscriptions to peer-
17 reviewed journals, the legislature seeks to learn whether such a
18 subscription model would be beneficial in Washington.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
20 public policy is directed to conduct a study that addresses, at a

1 minimum, potential funding, organizational structure, and policy
2 mechanisms that would provide state employees with electronic access
3 to peer-reviewed journals. For the purposes of this study, "peer-
4 reviewed journal" means any academic, scholarly, or scientific peer-
5 reviewed journal.

6 (2) The study must be completed by December 1, 2026, and
7 submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 to the standing committees
8 of the house of representatives and the senate with jurisdiction over
9 environmental or natural resource issues.

10 (3) This section expires June 30, 2027.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of \$83,000, or as much thereof as
12 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
13 2027, from the general fund to The Evergreen State College for the
14 Washington state institute for public policy to conduct the study
15 required by section 2 of this act.

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