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HOUSE BILL 1444

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Kessler, Rodne, Chandler, Upthegrove, Williams, Miloscia and O'Brien; by request of Attorney General

Read first time 01/19/2007.                      Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1            AN ACT Relating to the public records exemptions accountability  
2 committee; and adding a new section to chapter 42.56 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 42.56 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) The public records exemptions accountability committee is  
7 created to review all exemptions from public disclosure under this  
8 chapter and throughout the Revised Code of Washington.

9            (2) The committee consists of thirteen members as follows:

10            (a) A representative appointed by the governor;

11            (b) A representative appointed by the attorney general;

12            (c) A representative appointed by the state auditor;

13            (d) A representative of local government, to be selected by the  
14 governor;

15            (e) A representative of a statewide media association, to be  
16 selected by the attorney general;

17            (f) A member of the senate, to be selected by the senate majority  
18 leader;

1 (g) A member of the senate, to be selected by the senate minority  
2 leader;

3 (h) A member of the house of representatives, to be selected by the  
4 speaker of the house of representatives;

5 (i) A member of the house of representatives, to be selected by the  
6 house of representatives minority leader; and

7 (j) Four members of the public, to be selected by the nine members  
8 described in (a) through (i) of this subsection. Members of the public  
9 shall be selected with consideration given to diversity of viewpoint  
10 and geographic diversity.

11 (3) Terms of the members shall be two years and shall be staggered,  
12 beginning August 1, 2007.

13 (4) All meetings of the committee shall be open to the public.

14 (5) By August 1, 2007, the code reviser shall provide the committee  
15 with a list of all exemptions from public disclosure under this chapter  
16 that are not codified in this chapter.

17 (6) The committee shall meet by October 1, 2007, to discuss the  
18 exemptions and recommend the repeal or amendment of any exemptions. By  
19 December 1, 2007, the committee shall transmit its recommendations to  
20 the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the  
21 senate.

22 (7) Beginning in 2008, the code reviser shall by August 1st of each  
23 year provide the committee with a list of all exemptions from public  
24 disclosure under this chapter that are not codified in this chapter.  
25 The committee shall meet a minimum of once each year, after the close  
26 of the legislative session but no later than October 1st. Each year,  
27 the committee shall prepare a list of exemptions, if any, that it  
28 recommends for repeal or amendment, and transmit the information to  
29 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1st of that year.

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