

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1507

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations, March 30, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to heritage capital projects.

**Brief Description:** Requiring a process to solicit proposals for and prioritize heritage capital projects.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Capital Budget (originally sponsored by Representatives Ogden, Radcliff, Jacobsen, Brumsickle, Chopp and Dickerson; by request of Washington State Historical Society).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations: 3/22/95, 3/30/95 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Sheldon, Vice Chair; Drew, Hale, Heavey, McCaslin and Winsley.

**Staff:** Diane Smith (786-7410)

**Background:** Two state historical societies are charged with the preservation of materials of historical interest in Washington State: the Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) and the Eastern Washington Historical Society (EWHS). WSHS operates two museums; the State History Museum in Tacoma, and the State Capital Museum in Olympia. EWHS operates the Cheney Cowles Museum and the historic Campbell House in Spokane. Capital projects within these museums are supported by a combination of state appropriations and private contributions.

In addition to the state-chartered historical societies, many community-based public and non-profit entities across the state maintain records, artifacts and sites concerning the heritage and history of the state. Currently, no state grant program exists to support the capital facilities needs of these entities.

**Summary of Bill:** The Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) must establish a process to solicit and prioritize heritage capital projects for potential funding in the state capital budget. Local governments, public development authorities, nonprofit corporations, tribal governments, and other entities, as determined by WSHS, may apply for funding.

WSHS must adopt rules governing project eligibility and evaluation criteria, and recommend a prioritized list of heritage capital projects to the Governor and Legislature by September 1 of each even-numbered year, beginning in 1996. The list must be developed through open and public meetings with advice of leaders in the heritage field, including but not limited to

the Office of the Secretary of State, the Eastern Washington Historical Society, and the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The Governor and Legislature may consider the list when appropriating capital funds for heritage projects beginning with the 1997-99 fiscal biennium.

**Appropriation:** None

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** This bill sets the policy that specialists establish criteria for capital heritage projects and prioritize them so that their funding receives logical, systematic attention in the capital budget.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Rep. Val Ogden.