

5696-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Roach, Swecker, Kline, Fairley, Schow, Oke, Anderson, Deccio, Zarelli, Morton, Sellar, McCaslin, Horn, Patterson, Hale, Johnson, Franklin, Rossi, Stevens and Hochstatter)

Brief Title: Balancing the powers of the commission on judicial conduct.

SB 5696-S - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 2ND SUB)

Declares it is the intent of this act to: (1) Prevent a commission member who has developed a preconceived notion of the facts of a particular case from involvement in a commission determination on the merits;

(2) extend the same rights to a judge or justice as currently granted to the commission for reasonable attorney fees and expenses;

(3) extend the same rights to a judge or justice as currently granted to the commission for summoning witnesses and compelling production and examination of documents;

(4) provide full access and discovery of investigation-related materials to the judge or justice under investigation;

(5) require the commission and its members to be responsible for their actions;

(6) hold each commission member to the highest standards of the same Code of Judicial Conduct that they purport to administer; and

(7) codify the legal obligation of the commission to be subject to such rules as the Supreme Court may adopt.

Repeals RCW 2.64.080.