
SENATE BILL 6659

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time 01/18/2006. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to creation of a full-time state legislature;
2 adding a new section to chapter 44.04 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 providing contingent effective dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In the twenty-first century, members of the
6 legislature are confronted with increased complexity of issues facing
7 the legislature, increased demands for their time, increased
8 accountability standards, and the resulting difficulty in meeting
9 public obligations while having to earn a second income to support
10 their families.

11 In order for service in the state legislature to remain open to all
12 segments of society, and in order for legislators to have the time to
13 develop expertise in the complex areas addressed by the legislature, a
14 full-time state legislature is needed. A full-time state legislature
15 will allow members to devote their talents and energies to
16 accomplishing the work of the people, and avoid conflicts or apparent
17 conflicts between the member's private interests and official
18 responsibilities.

1 This act is not intended to extend or otherwise change the current
2 length or frequency of regular sessions, or of interim committee
3 meeting schedules. It is also not intended to increase staff size. It
4 is intended to give the members the financial freedom to commit their
5 time completely to their public duties.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The offices of state senator and state representative are full-time
9 positions and no member of the Washington state legislature may hold
10 any office, position, or employment that would decrease the ability of
11 the legislator to give the equivalent of full-time employment attention
12 to the business of the legislature. This section is not intended to
13 completely preclude a legislator from having other employment.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2007, if the
15 Washington citizens' commission on salaries for elected officials has
16 adopted a salary for state senators and state representatives effective
17 no later than September 1, 2007, that is at least twice the salary for
18 state senators and state representatives in effect September 1, 2006,
19 and if no referendum petition has been filed under Article XXVIII,
20 section 1 of the state Constitution. If such a salary is adopted and
21 such a referendum is validly submitted to and approved by the voters,
22 this act takes effect on the thirtieth day after the election at which
23 the referendum is approved. If such a salary has not been adopted or
24 if such a referendum is validly submitted to and disapproved by the
25 voters, this act is void in its entirety.

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