

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5267**

---

**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Government Operations & State Security (originally sponsored by Senators Habib, Roach, Lias, Pearson, Keiser, Mullet, and Chase; by request of Secretary of State)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to prerecorded video testimony and written  
2 testimony on pending legislation; amending RCW 40.14.100; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 44.68 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Washington state legislature functions  
6 in an open and public atmosphere. Committee meetings and floor  
7 sessions are open to the public. One of the most important  
8 opportunities to become involved in the debate over a bill is when it  
9 is the subject of a hearing before a legislative committee. The  
10 purpose of committee hearings is to gather information so that the  
11 committee can make an informed recommendation on a given bill or  
12 resolution. However, providing testimony during a committee hearing  
13 may sometimes be challenging for the public. Traveling to Olympia to  
14 testify in bad weather and during the work day may prove difficult  
15 for some members of the public. Additionally, it may be a hardship  
16 for the elderly or persons with disabilities to travel to Olympia to  
17 testify in person. It is the intent of the legislature to establish  
18 processes to allow the public to provide testimony on pending  
19 legislation through prerecorded videos and written statements in an  
20 effort to provide additional access to the legislative process and  
21 opportunities for the public to provide testimony on legislation.

1 Moreover, it is the intent of the legislature that whenever possible  
2 the prerecorded videos and written statements will be made available  
3 to members of the legislature prior to legislative action on  
4 legislation.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.68  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The legislature and legislative agencies through the joint  
8 legislative systems committee shall develop processes for both mobile  
9 devices and computers to allow the public to provide testimony on  
10 pending legislation through prerecorded videos and written  
11 statements. The systems committee may set up parameters around the  
12 length of prerecorded videos and written statements that may be  
13 submitted to the legislature through these processes. Submitted  
14 testimony on pending legislation through prerecorded videos and  
15 written statements must be made available to members of the  
16 legislature in a timely fashion. The systems committee may contract  
17 with a nonprofit organization that produces gavel-to-gavel television  
18 coverage of state government deliberations and other events of  
19 statewide significance in order to develop these processes.

20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 40.14.100 and 1971 ex.s. c 102 s 2 are each amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 As used in RCW 40.14.010 and 40.14.100 through 40.14.180, unless  
23 the context requires otherwise, "legislative records" shall be  
24 defined as correspondence, prerecorded video testimony, written  
25 testimony, amendments, reports, and minutes of meetings made by or  
26 submitted to legislative committees or subcommittees and transcripts  
27 or other records of hearings or supplementary written testimony or  
28 data thereof filed with committees or subcommittees in connection  
29 with the exercise of legislative or investigatory functions, but does  
30 not include the records of an official act of the legislature kept by  
31 the secretary of state, bills and their copies, published materials,  
32 digests, or multi-copied matter which are routinely retained and  
33 otherwise available at the state library or in a public repository,  
34 or reports or correspondence made or received by or in any way under  
35 the personal control of the individual members of the legislature.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    This act may be known and cited as the  
2    "accessible legislative testimony act."

--- END ---