

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5724

PARTIAL VETO

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Simplifying publication and distribution of court reports.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Quigley, Long and Haugen; by request of State Law Library).

Senate Committee on Law & Justice

House Committee on Law & Justice

Background: The Commission on Supreme Court Reports ("the Commission") oversees the Office of the Reporter of Decisions ("the Reporter"), which publishes the decisions of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions.

The Supreme Court purchases for the state at least 300 copies of each volume of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals reports. These reports are distributed by the State Law Librarian to various offices and agencies throughout the state, including the state law library, state courts, public libraries, and law school libraries.

The Commission consists of six members: the Chief Justice, the Supreme Court Reporter of Decisions, the State Law Librarian, a Court of Appeals judge, the Public Printer, and an appointed state bar representative.

The legislative supplemental budget that passed last session required the reporter's office to be self-funding. These changes are needed to meet the mandate of the supplemental budget.

Summary: The Commission's duties and membership are changed. The Commission no longer publishes the opinions; instead, it serves as an advisory body to the Supreme Court regarding the publication of the courts' decisions. The publishing of the reports may be accomplished by contractual relations with private vendors and the Supreme Court.

The duty of distributing the reports is removed from the State Law Librarian and allocated to the Supreme Court Reporter. The reporter is required to provide one copy of each volume to each county law library, one copy to each accredited law school in this state and as many copies as the state library needs.

The Commission's membership includes the Chief Justice, the Reporter of Decisions, the State Law Librarian, a judge of the Court of Appeals, a member of the bar, and other members as determined by the Chief Justice.

The Commission on Court Reports must develop a plan by July 1, 1997, for the non-exclusive availability of the materials prepared by the Reporter of Decisions.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	46	0	
House	95	0	(House amended)
Senate	48	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: July 23, 1995

Partial Veto Summary: The requirement that the State Law Librarian receive from the publisher of the court reports copies of court reports purchased by the Supreme Court is reinstated. The section in the bill that addresses this issue is irreconcilable with Substitute Senate Bill 5067, which has already been signed into law. The veto will avoid confusion in the implementation of these measures.