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## Capital Budget Committee

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### HB 1995

**Brief Description:** Concerning historic public facilities.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Lantz, Skinner, Hunt, Moeller and Upthegrove.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides a definition for "public and historic facilities" in Thurston County.
- Assigns the responsibility for the stewardship, preservation, operation, and maintenance of the public and historic facilities of the state capitol to the Department of General Administration, subject to the policy direction of the State Capitol Committee and the Legislative Buildings Committee as created in SHB 1301.

**Hearing Date:** 2/23/05

**Staff:** Susan Howson (786-7142).

#### Background:

The Department of General Administration (GA) owns and manages a number of public and historic facilities in Thurston County including the state capitol grounds, the Visitor Center, the Governor's Mansion and the public spaces in the Legislative, O'Brien, Cherberg, Pritchard, and Temple of Justice buildings. The state capitol grounds include the main capitol campus, Sylvester Park, Heritage Park, Marathon Park, Centennial Park, Capitol Lake, the Interpretive Center, Deschutes Parkway, and the landscape, memorials, artworks, fountains, streets, sidewalks and lighting in each of these areas. In addition, the GA is responsible for the stewardship of the interior furnishings and finishes at the state capitol, and the historic stone exteriors of buildings such as the Insurance, Dolliver, and old capitol buildings. The GA rents these buildings to state agencies for the delivery of programs and to conduct the state's business.

The directors of the GA and the Office of Financial Management have the statutory authority to determine and establish rates to fund the operation of non-assigned public spaces in Thurston County. While statute does not specifically address what buildings, grounds, or other elements are considered "non-assigned public spaces," the GA has interpreted the law to mean the public and historic facilities of the state capitol, and has taken the lead in planning for and directing the care and maintenance of these places. Currently, a per Thurston County full-time equivalent (FTE) state employee charge funds the operations and maintenance of the public and historic facilities.

**Summary of Bill:**

Public and historic facilities include: (1) The east, west and north capitol campus grounds, Sylvester park, Heritage park, Marathon park, Centennial park, the Deschutes river basin commonly known as Capitol lake, the interpretive center, Deschutes parkway, and the landscape, memorials, artwork, fountains, streets, sidewalks, lighting, and infrastructure in each of these areas; and (2) the public spaces and the historic interior and exterior features of the following buildings: the visitor center, the Governor's mansion, the Legislative building, the John L. O'Brien building, the Cherberg building, the Pritchard building, the Temple of Justice, the Insurance building, the Dolliver building, capitol court, and the old capitol buildings, including the historic state-owned furnishings and works of art commissioned for or original to these buildings.

The GA is responsible for the stewardship, preservation, operation, and maintenance of the public and historic facilities of the State Capitol subject to the policy direction of the State Capitol Committee and the Legislative Buildings Committee as created in SHB 1301. In administering this responsibility, the GA is directed to adopt and give substantial deference to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties.

Funding for the current and future maintenance and operational needs of the public and historic facilities will be authorized in the operating budget from the General Administration Services Account. Funding for development and preservation needs will be authorized in the capital budget from the Capitol Building Construction Account to the extent that revenue is available, or the State Building Construction Account.

The GA is authorized to seek grants, gifts, or donations to support the stewardship of public and historic facilities. In addition, the Department may sell historic state capitol furnishings and artifacts that have been designated as state surplus by the Capitol Furnishings Preservation Committee.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.