

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5835

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As of January 9, 2024

**Title:** An act relating to transparency in rule making.

**Brief Description:** Concerning transparency in rule making.

**Sponsors:** Senators Wilson, L., Dozier, Gildon, Mullet and Wilson, J..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** State Government & Elections: 1/09/24.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires agency rule-making webpages to include a plain-language summary of 100 words or less detailing all proposed rules, emergency rules, and permanent rules proposed or adopted within the last 12 months.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS

**Staff:** Danielle Creech (786-7412)

**Background:** Current law requires Washington State agencies to maintain a rule-making webpage containing the complete text of all proposed rules, emergency rules, and permanent rules proposed or adopted within the last 12 months. For all proposed rules, the webpage must also include the date, time, and place for the rule-making hearing as well as procedures and timelines for submitting written comments. Agencies must display a link to the rule-making webpage on the agency website homepage.

Federal law requires federal agencies to provide a general notice of all proposed rule making to be published on the Federal Register, including: a statement of the time, place, and nature of public rulemaking proceedings; a reference to the legal authority under which the rule is proposed; the substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and

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issues involved; and a link to a summary of less than 100 words of the proposed rule in plain language.

**Summary of Bill:** State agency rule-making websites must provide a plain-language description in 100 words or less of all proposed rules, emergency rules, and permanent rules proposed or adopted within the last 12 months.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 5, 2024.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: It can be challenging for some of these businesses to understand new rules and this is a great step in the right direction. This is a great way to bridge the often cumbersome gap between government agencies and the public. This will also ensure transparency in the rulemaking process.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Lynda Wilson, Prime Sponsor; Mark Johnson, Washington Retail Association; eric pratt.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.