

2 **SHB 2433** - S COMM AMD  
3 By Committee on Ways & Means

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.08 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 INTENT. The legislature finds that increasing citizens' access to  
10 information about both the processes of state government, and the  
11 issues dealt with by state government, will strengthen the democratic  
12 process. Recent technological developments in the area of  
13 telecommunications offer efficient and effective ways to expand this  
14 access to information about state government.

15 It is the intent of the legislature, in a partnership with the  
16 private sector, to establish a mechanism to produce unedited televised  
17 coverage of state government deliberations and other public policy  
18 events of state-wide significance. Funding provided by the state is  
19 intended to cover the annual operating cost of the core services, which  
20 include gavel-to-gavel coverage of state government deliberations and  
21 other public policy events of state-wide significance. This service is  
22 intended to increase citizen access to government, and is a public  
23 purpose for which public funds may be expended. It is assumed that  
24 private contributions will be raised to purchase equipment, and to  
25 cover the cost of programming activities such as curriculum development  
26 for use in school classrooms.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.08 RCW  
28 to read as follows:

29 ESCROW ACCOUNT. (1) The state treasurer shall contract with a  
30 qualified public deposit protection commission bank for the  
31 establishment of an escrow account. The account shall hold moneys  
32 appropriated by the legislature to the state treasurer specifically for  
33 the purposes of televising unedited, gavel-to-gavel coverage of state  
34 government deliberations and other public policy events of state-wide  
35 significance.

1 The account may also be used to pay for the direct costs of  
2 producing interactive hearings over the Washington interactive  
3 teleconferencing system. These hearings shall be linked to the public  
4 television system provided for in this section to broadcast the  
5 hearings to the general public.

6 The contracted bank shall disburse funds to the nonprofit  
7 organization, determined to be qualified by the office of financial  
8 management, on a quarterly basis to cover the annual operating expenses  
9 of the nonprofit organization. No more than one million seven hundred  
10 fifty thousand dollars may be disbursed for this purpose in the first  
11 year. Disbursements for this purpose may be increased by three percent  
12 per year thereafter. Expenditures for the production of interactive  
13 hearings must be approved by the administrative committees of both the  
14 house of representatives and the senate and may not exceed a total of  
15 fifty thousand dollars in any single year.

16 (2) A qualified nonprofit organization is a nonprofit corporation  
17 formed solely for the purpose of providing unedited televised coverage  
18 of state government deliberations and other events of state-wide  
19 significance, and which has received a determination of a tax exempt  
20 status under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code.

21 (3) Interested qualified nonprofit organizations shall submit a  
22 four-year financial plan, a feasibility plan, and an engineering plan  
23 that includes a schedule of equipment needs and distribution plan to  
24 the office of financial management. The office of financial management  
25 may set criteria for these plans. The office of financial management  
26 shall review the submitted plans and, by May 2, 1994, select a  
27 qualified nonprofit organization to carry out sections 1 through 3 of  
28 this act from those nonprofit organizations whose plans indicate the  
29 ability to carry out sections 1 through 3 of this act.

30 (4) Beginning January 1995, the qualified nonprofit organization  
31 shall prepare an annual independent audit, an annual financial  
32 statement, an annual report, and operational benchmarks that measure  
33 the nonprofit organization's impact on success of this program in  
34 meeting the intent of sections 1 through 3 of this act.

35 (5) The initial selection award under this section shall be for a  
36 period of four years. The office of financial management shall by  
37 December 31, 1998, reopen the application process and select a  
38 qualified nonprofit organization.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 43.08 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        TERMS AND CONDITIONS.    Placement and operation of equipment within  
4 legislative facilities are subject to terms and conditions between the  
5 qualified nonprofit organization and the respective houses of the  
6 legislature.    Such terms and conditions may include but are not limited  
7 to:    Programming standards requiring a fair and balanced presentation  
8 without regard to partisanship or ideology and a balance of possible  
9 subject matter and deliberating bodies.

10        The initial terms and conditions and any amendment to those terms  
11 and conditions shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of each house of  
12 the legislature.    Such ratification shall be made in the form of a  
13 concurrent resolution.

14        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    CAPTIONS.    Section captions as used in this  
15 act do not constitute any part of the law.

16        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    APPROPRIATION.    The sum of six million six  
17 hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
18 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the general  
19 fund to the state treasurer for the purposes of this act.

20        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    EMERGENCY CLAUSE.    This act is necessary for  
21 the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or  
22 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,  
23 and shall take effect immediately."

24    **SHB 2433** - S COMM AMD  
25        By Committee on Ways & Means

26

27        On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "proceedings;" strike the  
28 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter 43.08  
29 RCW; creating a new section; making an appropriation; and declaring an  
30 emergency."

--- END ---