
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6426

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Sutherland, Ludwig, Talmadge, Quigley, Vognild, Williams, Owen, McCaslin, Amondson, Hochstatter, West, Erwin, Bauer, Pelz, A. Smith, Hargrove, Skratek and Oke)

Read first time 02/08/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to public electronic access to government
2 information; adding a new section to chapter 42.17 RCW; creating new
3 sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that government
6 information is a strategic resource and needs to be managed as such and
7 that broad public access to nonrestricted public information and
8 records must be guaranteed. The legislature further finds that
9 reengineering government processes along with capitalizing on
10 advancements made in digital technology can build greater efficiencies
11 in government service delivery. The legislature further finds that
12 providing citizen electronic access to presently available public
13 documents will allow increased citizen involvement in state policies
14 and empower citizens to participate in state policy decision making.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By January 1, 1995, the legislature shall
16 design a program for public electronic access to public legislative
17 documents. Such a program may include on-line access to the
18 legislature's atlas, leglink, and electronic bulletin board systems.

1 The program may also include fax-request services, providing
2 information for the internet system, contracting the provision of
3 documents, and other service delivery options. Documents available in
4 the program shall include, but are not limited to, bills, bill digests,
5 bill reports, legislative reports, legislative meeting schedules, the
6 Revised Code of Washington, the Washington Administrative Code, and
7 attorney general opinions.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The joint legislative systems committee
9 shall provide guidance and advice in performing the duties of section
10 2 of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 By January 1, 1995, the public disclosure commission shall design
14 a program for electronic access to public documents filed with the
15 commission. The program may include on-line access to the commission's
16 magic and electronic bulletin board systems, providing information for
17 the internet system, fax-request service, automated telephone service,
18 electronic filing of reports, and other service delivery options.
19 Documents available in the program shall include, but are not limited
20 to, public documents filed with the public disclosure commission,
21 including, but not limited to, commission meeting schedules, financial
22 affairs reports, contribution reports, expenditure reports, and gift
23 reports.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The public information access policy task
25 force is created, with membership to include the office of financial
26 management, the department of information services, the state library,
27 the state law library, the public disclosure commission, the division
28 of archives and records management, the superintendent of public
29 instruction or his or her designee, the executive director of the
30 higher education coordinating board or his or her designee, the
31 legislature, local governments, and the information services board. By
32 September 30, 1994, the task force shall develop and report to the
33 legislature a comprehensive information access policy designed to
34 ensure that information collected, created, used, and disseminated by
35 agencies of the state of Washington will be managed, protected, and
36 used effectively and responsibly for the public good. The task force

1 shall include in its recommendations alternative methods to address
2 continuing and future issues of public information content policy. The
3 task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 1995, unless otherwise
4 reauthorized by the legislature.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** By September 30, 1994, the task force shall
6 develop and report to the legislature the design for a program for
7 public electronic access to government information, which shall
8 include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

9 (1) Documents produced by or in the possession of state agencies,
10 in all formats, including state voters' pamphlets;

11 (2) Publicly available documents produced by or in the possession
12 of all political subdivisions of the state.

13 The task force may consider on-line access to electronic bulletin
14 boards; fax-request services; the internet and similar electronic
15 systems; contracting the provision of documents; automated telephone
16 service; the feasibility of providing public access terminals at
17 publicly funded Washington libraries, schools, school districts, and
18 institutions of higher education; the benefit and feasibility of
19 electronic mail systems in public schools to provide increased
20 communication between parents, teachers, and students; and other
21 service delivery options. The task force shall examine and recommend
22 minimum standards for technology compatibility; associated costs
23 including, but not limited to, hardware, software, and delivery costs;
24 training; and alternative funding sources for the program.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If any provision of this act or its
26 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
27 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
28 persons or circumstances is not affected.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
32 effect immediately.

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