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**SENATE BILL 6874**

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**State of Washington**                      **56th Legislature**      **2000 1st Special Session**

**By** Senators Spanel, Hale, B. Sheldon, West, Snyder and Wojahn

Read first time 4/6/2000.

1            AN ACT Relating to statutory committees of the legislature;  
2 amending RCW 44.28.060, 44.28.065, 44.40.015, 44.44.030, 44.48.010,  
3 44.48.120, 44.68.040, and 44.68.050; adding a new section to chapter  
4 44.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.28 RCW; adding a new  
5 section to chapter 44.40 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.44  
6 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.48 RCW; and adding a new  
7 section to chapter 44.68 RCW.

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

9            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11            The joint legislative audit and review committee, the legislative  
12 transportation committee, the joint committee on pension policy, the  
13 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee, and the  
14 joint legislative systems committee shall be subject to such  
15 operational policies, procedures, and oversight as are deemed necessary  
16 by the facilities and operations committee of the senate and the  
17 executive rules committee of the house of representatives to ensure  
18 operational consistency among the agencies of the legislative branch.  
19 As used in this section, "operational policies, procedures, and

1 oversight" includes the development of biennial budgets, personnel  
2 policies and compensation plans, facilities, contracts, and  
3 expenditures.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.28 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The administration of the joint legislative audit and review  
7 committee shall be subject to section 1 of this act.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 44.28.060 and 1996 c 288 s 7 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 The members of the joint committee shall form an executive  
11 committee consisting of one member from each of the four major  
12 political caucuses, which shall include a chair and a vice-chair. The  
13 chair and vice-chair shall serve for a period not to exceed two years.  
14 The chair and the vice-chair may not be members of the same political  
15 party. The chair shall alternate between the members of the majority  
16 parties in the senate and the house of representatives.

17 Subject to section 1 of this act, the executive committee is  
18 responsible for performing all general administrative and personnel  
19 duties assigned to it in the rules and procedures adopted by the joint  
20 committee, as well as other duties delegated to it by the joint  
21 committee. The executive committee shall recommend applicants for the  
22 position of the legislative auditor to the membership of the joint  
23 committee. The legislative auditor shall be hired with the approval of  
24 a majority of the membership of the joint committee. Subject to  
25 section 1 of this act, the executive committee shall set the salary of  
26 the legislative auditor.

27 The joint committee shall adopt rules and procedures for its  
28 orderly operation. The joint committee may create subcommittees to  
29 perform duties under this chapter.

30 **Sec. 4.** RCW 44.28.065 and 1996 c 288 s 8 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 Subject to section 1 of this act, the legislative auditor shall:  
33 (1) Establish and manage the office of the joint legislative audit  
34 and review committee to carry out the functions of this chapter;  
35 (2) Direct the audit and review functions described in this chapter  
36 and ensure that performance audits are performed in accordance with the

1 "Government Auditing Standards" published by the comptroller general of  
2 the United States as applicable to the scope of the audit;

3 (3) Make findings and recommendations to the joint committee and  
4 under its direction to the committees of the state legislature  
5 concerning the organization and operation of state agencies and the  
6 expenditure of state funds by units of local government;

7 (4) In consultation with and with the approval of the executive  
8 committee, hire staff necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
9 chapter. Employee salaries, other than the legislative auditor, shall  
10 be set by the legislative auditor with the approval of the executive  
11 committee;

12 (5) Assist the several standing committees of the house and senate  
13 in consideration of legislation affecting state departments and their  
14 efficiency; appear before other legislative committees; and assist any  
15 other legislative committee upon instruction by the joint legislative  
16 audit and review committee;

17 (6) Provide the legislature with information obtained under the  
18 direction of the joint legislative audit and review committee;

19 (7) Maintain a record of all work performed by the legislative  
20 auditor under the direction of the joint legislative audit and review  
21 committee and keep and make available all documents, data, and reports  
22 submitted to the legislative auditor by any legislative committee.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 44.40 RCW  
24 to read as follows:

25 The administration of the legislative transportation committee  
26 shall be subject to section 1 of this act.

27 **Sec. 6.** RCW 44.40.015 and 1999 sp.s. c 1 s 617 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 The members of the legislative transportation committee shall form  
30 an executive committee consisting of two members from each of the four  
31 major political caucuses, which will include the chair and vice-chair  
32 of the legislative transportation committee. There will be four  
33 alternates to the executive committee, one from each of the four major  
34 political caucuses. Each alternate may represent a member from the  
35 same political caucus from which they were chosen when that member is  
36 absent, and have voting privileges during that absence.

1        Subject to section 1 of this act, the executive committee is  
2 responsible for performing all general administrative and personnel  
3 duties assigned to it in the rules and procedures adopted by the  
4 committee, determining the number of legislative transportation  
5 committee staff, and other duties delegated to it by the committee.  
6 Except when those responsibilities are assumed by the legislative  
7 transportation committee, the executive committee is responsible for  
8 adopting interim work plans and meeting schedules, approving all  
9 contracts signed on behalf of the committee, and setting policies for  
10 legislative transportation ((~~committee~~—{~~committee~~})) committee staff  
11 utilization.

12        NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 44.44 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14        The administration of the joint committee on pension policy shall  
15 be subject to section 1 of this act.

16        **Sec. 8.** RCW 44.44.030 and 1987 c 25 s 2 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18        (1) Subject to section 1 of this act, the state actuary shall have  
19 the authority to select and employ such research, technical, clerical  
20 personnel, and consultants as the actuary deems necessary, whose  
21 salaries shall be fixed by the actuary and approved by the joint  
22 committee on pension policy, and who shall be exempt from the  
23 provisions of the state civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW.

24        (2) All actuarial valuations and experience studies performed by  
25 the office of the state actuary shall be signed by a member of the  
26 American academy of actuaries. If the state actuary is not such a  
27 member, the state actuary, after approval by the committee, shall  
28 contract for a period not to exceed two years with a member of the  
29 American academy of actuaries to assist in developing actuarial  
30 valuations and experience studies.

31        NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. A new section is added to chapter 44.48 RCW  
32 to read as follows:

33        The administration of the legislative evaluation and accountability  
34 program committee shall be subject to section 1 of this act.

1       **Sec. 10.** RCW 44.48.010 and 1980 c 87 s 40 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       There is hereby created a legislative evaluation and accountability  
4 program committee which shall consist of four senators and four  
5 representatives from the legislature and shall be chosen from among the  
6 chairs, vice-chairs, and ranking minority members of the legislative  
7 fiscal committees. The senate members of the committee shall be  
8 appointed by the president of the senate and the house members of the  
9 committee shall be appointed by the speaker of the house. Not more  
10 than two members from each house shall be from the same political  
11 party. All members shall be appointed (~~before the close of the 1977~~  
12 ~~session of the legislature and~~) before the close of each regular  
13 session during an odd-numbered year (~~thereafter~~). Members shall be  
14 subject to confirmation, as to the senate members by the senate, and as  
15 to the house members by the house.

16       **Sec. 11.** RCW 44.48.120 and 1977 ex.s. c 373 s 12 are each amended  
17 to read as follows:

18       The committee is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint an  
19 officer to be known as the LEAP administrator who shall be the  
20 executive officer of the committee and assist in its duties and shall  
21 compile information for the committee.

22       Subject to section 1 of this act, the committee is hereby  
23 authorized and empowered to select and employ temporary and permanent  
24 personnel and fix their salaries.

25       The duties of the administrator shall be as follows:

26       (1) To manage the LEAP operations.

27       (2) To assist the several standing committees of the house and  
28 senate; to appear before other legislative committees; and to assist  
29 any other legislative committee upon instruction by the committee.

30       (3) To provide the legislature with information obtained under the  
31 direction of the committee.

32       (4) To maintain a record of all work performed by the administrator  
33 under the direction of the committee and to keep and make available all  
34 documents, data, and reports submitted to the administrator by any  
35 legislative committee.

36       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 44.68 RCW  
37 to read as follows:

1       The administration of the joint legislative systems committee shall  
2 be subject to section 1 of this act.

3       **Sec. 13.** RCW 44.68.040 and 1986 c 61 s 4 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5       Subject to section 1 of this act:

6       (1) The systems committee, after consultation with the  
7 administrative committee, shall employ a legislative systems  
8 coordinator. The coordinator shall serve at the pleasure of the  
9 systems committee, which shall fix the coordinator's salary.

10       (2) The coordinator shall serve as the executive and administrative  
11 head of the center, and shall assist the administrative committee in  
12 managing the information processing and communications systems of the  
13 legislature as directed by the administrative committee.

14       **Sec. 14.** RCW 44.68.050 and 1986 c 61 s 5 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16       The administrative committee shall, subject to the approval of the  
17 systems committee and subject to section 1 of this act:

18       (1) Adopt policies, procedures, and standards regarding the  
19 information processing and communications systems of the legislature;

20       (2) Establish appropriate charges for services, equipment, and  
21 publications provided by the legislative information processing and  
22 communications systems, applicable to legislative and nonlegislative  
23 users as determined by the administrative committee;

24       (3) Employ or engage and fix the compensation for personnel  
25 required to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

26       (4) Enter into contracts for (a) the sale, exchange, or acquisition  
27 of equipment, supplies, services, and facilities required to carry out  
28 the purposes of this chapter and (b) the distribution of legislative  
29 information;

30       (5) Generally assist the systems committee in carrying out its  
31 responsibilities under this chapter, as directed by the systems  
32 committee.

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