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HOUSE BILL 1985

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Nixon, Shabro and Bush

Read first time 02/18/2003. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing caucuses on the basis of political  
2 party affiliation under the Open Public Meetings Act; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 42.30 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the Open Public  
6 Meetings Act was not intended to prevent caucusing on the basis of  
7 political party, where such party affiliation is the basis of  
8 membership on the governing board of a public agency, as defined by the  
9 act. The legislature finds that the Open Public Meetings Act has been  
10 construed so as to cause unintended results, such as the minority of a  
11 county council being permitted to caucus as a party while the majority  
12 is not. The legislature intends to clarify the act so that governing  
13 body members may caucus by political party affiliation.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.30 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 At any meeting of the governing body of a public agency where that  
17 governing body is composed of officials elected or appointed on the  
18 basis of political party affiliation, members of that governing body of

1 the same political party may caucus as a group without that caucus  
2 being open to the public. No final action may be undertaken at such a  
3 caucus.

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