

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2402

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As of February 24, 2020

**Title:** An act relating to streamlining legislative operations by repealing and amending selected statutory committees.

**Brief Description:** Streamlining legislative operations by repealing and amending selected statutory committees.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Hudgins, Gregerson and Wylie.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/12/20, 95-1.

**Committee Activity:** State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections: 2/21/20.

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates the Education Accountability System and Oversight Committee, the Legislative Advisory Committee to the Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy, and the Joint Legislative Systems Committee.
- Transfers the powers and duties of the Joint Legislative Systems Committee to the Joint Legislative Systems Administrative Committee.
- Requires House and Senate Administration to provide committee support for the Legislative Oral History Committee.
- Replaces references to committees that have been renamed, removes references to committees that have been eliminated, and removes outdated language about reports and tuition changes from past years.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS

**Staff:** Melissa Van Gorkom (786-7491)

**Background:** The Legislature often creates advisory committees and oversight committees to provide policy research and recommendations and to oversee legislatively created programs. Some examples include:

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The Education Accountability System and Oversight Committee. The Education Accountability System Oversight Committee (EASOC) was created in 2013 alongside provisions establishing the Washington Achievement Index, the state accountability system used to identify challenged schools needing improvement. EASOC is composed of two legislators from each caucus of the House of Representatives and the Senate, two appointees from the Governor, and one non-legislative member of the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. EASOC's tasks include monitoring the progress and outcomes of the education accountability system and making recommendations for changes to the accountability system as necessary. EASOC is directed to report biennially to the legislative education committees. EASOC met once in 2014, but has never produced or submitted a report.

The Legislative Advisory Committee to the Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment. The Legislative Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to the Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment and College Savings was created in 2011. The advisory committee consists of eight legislative members. The Advisory Committee is responsible for providing advice to the committee and the state actuary regarding the administration of the Guaranteed Education Tuition program and the college savings program including, but not limited to, pricing guidelines, the tuition unit price, and the unit payout value.

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy. The Legislature created the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy (JLOCTP) in 2003 to monitor trade agreement impacts on Washington laws, and to provide a mechanism for legislators and citizens to voice their opinions on trade agreements to state and federal officials. JLOCTP is an 11-member committee, comprised of four senators, four representatives, and three ex-officio members. JLOCTP examines issues related to international trade, international economic integration, and trade agreements that the members deem appropriate. JLOCTP is required to:

- annually hear public testimony and report to the state Trade Representative's Office and Legislature on the impacts of international trade agreements and negotiations on the state;
- conduct an annual assessment and report to the Legislature on the impacts of international trade agreements upon Washington law; and
- maintain active communication with federal and state trade offices, the state's congressional delegation, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and any other bodies the committee deems appropriate regarding ongoing developments in international trade agreements and policy.

The Joint Legislative Systems Committee. The Joint Legislative Systems Committee (JLSC) was created in 1986 to oversee the direction of the information processing and communications systems of the Legislature. JLSC consists of four legislative members, one from each of the two largest caucuses in each chamber of the Legislature. JLSC is advised by an administrative committee, the Joint Legislative Systems Administrative Committee (JLSAC), consisting of five members: two from Senate administration, two from House administration, and one from the Office of the Code Reviser. Among other duties, JLSAC is responsible for adopting policies and standards regarding information processing and communications systems of the Legislature, subject to the approval of JLSC. The two committees work together to employ the legislative systems coordinator, who is the executive

head of the Legislative Service Center (LSC). LSC provides data processing services, equipment, training, and support to the Legislature.

The Building Bridges Work Group. The Building Bridges Work Group (Work Group) was established in 2007 with the mission to prevent students from dropping out of school and to intervene and reengage students that have dropped out. The Work Group includes four legislative members and representatives from a number of K-12 and state agencies that work with such youth, as well as other state agencies and organizations that have juvenile or educational focused missions. The Work Group must make recommendations to the Legislature to: reduce barriers that prevent the coordination of various agencies; develop and track performance measures and benchmarks for the partner agencies and organizations; and identify best practices for its mission. It must report to the Legislature and the Governor on an annual basis with proposed strategies to reduce student dropouts and reengage students that have already dropped out. The Work Group was eventually renamed the Graduation: A Team Effort Advisory Group.

The State Birth-to-Three Interagency Coordinating Council. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires each state to have a state interagency coordinating council for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The State Birth-to-Three Interagency Coordinating Council (Council) is responsible for ensuring that state agencies involved in early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities are coordinating with each other to plan and deliver such services. The Council has as many as 23 members who are appointed by the Governor; one of the members must be from the Legislature. Although Washington statutes include the term "Birth-to-Three" in the Council's title, the name used for the Council, since it was re-established by Executive Order 14-03, is the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families.

The Legislative Oral History Committee. The Legislative Oral History Committee (LOHC) is responsible for documenting and preserving the history of the Legislature. Its responsibilities include selecting candidates and subjects for interviews, selecting transcripts and related historical material for publication, and providing advice to the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives on the administration of the Oral History program. The LOHC consists of eight legislative members.

The Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority. Created in 2005, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority (Authority) was responsible for soliciting money for, and using money from, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund (Fund) to promote life sciences research. The Authority was managed by a board of trustees consisting of four legislators and seven members appointed by the Governor. In 2019 the responsibilities to oversee the Fund were transferred to the Department of Commerce, who in turn was directed to contract with a statewide nonprofit organization with a life science focus. The Authority's enabling statutes were repealed.

The Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation. The Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) was created in 1998 to improve the accessibility to and coordination of special needs transportation services. The ACCT consisted of state agencies, transportation providers, consumer advocates, and legislators. The ACCT was required to

adopt a biennial work plan for transportation systems improvements and to review local plans developed by regional transportation planning organizations. The ACCT terminated on June 30, 2011, and the statutes were repealed in 2012.

**Summary of Bill:** The following committees are eliminated:

- EASOC;
- Advisory Committee;
- JLOCTP; and
- JLSC.

The powers and duties of the JLSC are transferred to the JLSAC.

Committee support for the LOHC must be provided by the Office of the Secretary of the Senate and the Office of the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The names of the following committees are modified:

- references to the Work Group are changed to the Graduation: A Team Effort Partnership Advisory Committee; and
- references to Council are changed to the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families.

References to the Authority and the ACCT are removed. Expired legislative directives regarding reports, recommendations, or tuition determinations or changes are also removed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2020.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Can be hard to remove or combine things in statute, this bill started smaller with just the Joint Legislative Trade Committee which had not met for years, but it was not able to get through the process on its own, so this bill has captured multiple legislative functions that need to be fixed. This bill is focused on the legislative branch with the intent of shrinking the footprint and removing committees that are done with their work. This has been vetted with folks appointed to the committees to ensure that there is no impact to existing programs.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Zack Hudgins, Prime Sponsor.

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