
HOUSE BILL 1695

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Walsh, Sutherland, Klippert, McCaslin, McEntire, Kraft, Jacobsen, and Young

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1 AN ACT Relating to reforming the means by which the legislature
2 establishes operating procedures; adding new sections to chapter
3 44.04 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 recognizes the timeless
6 truth articulated by James Otis' great American axiom that taxation
7 without representation is tyranny.

8 The legislature acknowledges that limiting some legislators'
9 access to capitol buildings, facilities, and resources creates a
10 constitutional inequality that impairs representation for millions of
11 Washingtonians. And the people of Washington have expressed
12 frustration with this impairment and, more generally, a lack of
13 transparency surrounding many actions of their state government.

14 The legislature acknowledges that segregating the people's
15 legislative representatives effectively segregates the people. And
16 such segregation violates the spirit and letter of the United States
17 supreme court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which stated
18 clearly that separate is not equal.

19 Finally, the legislature acknowledges that all branches of
20 Washington's state government must operate within the guarantee
21 clause of the United States Constitution, Article IV, section 4,

1 which promises all people in the United States a republican form of
2 government and provides protection from, among other dangers,
3 "domestic violence."

4 Applying these important truths, the legislature therefore
5 recognizes the need to clarify and reform the methods and means by
6 which the legislature establishes the rules by which it operates.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 All meetings of the executive rules committee in the house of
10 representatives and the facilities and operations committee in the
11 senate, or their successor committees, must be open to the public.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) No operating rule of the house of representatives or senate
15 can segregate, discriminate against, or offer privileged status to
16 legislators on the basis of medical status, including vaccination or
17 antibody status.

18 (2) While any such segregation, discrimination, or privileged
19 status is in effect, the operations of the legislature shall be
20 suspended and no legislative action may occur except such action as
21 is necessary to resolve the violation of subsection (1) of this
22 section.

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