
Appropriations Committee

HB 1606

Brief Description: Concerning state employee access to peer-reviewed journals.

Sponsors: Representatives Engell, Bernbaum, Orcutt, Corry, Reeves, Waters, Ramel, Parshley, Reed, Ormsby and Nance.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to conduct a study on providing state employees with electronic access to peer-reviewed journals.

Hearing Date: 2/6/25

Staff: Kate Henry (786-7349).

Background:

A publication where articles written by experts submitted for publication are first evaluated and reviewed by other experts in the same field before being accepted are known as peer-reviewed articles. The peer-review process adds to the quality and accuracy of the research, and is considered more reliable within the academic community.

Access to peer-reviewed articles and journals often requires a subscription or paying per article. The State Library database identified 16,817 magazines and journals, of which 15,163 were peer-reviewed. Agency libraries such as the Washington State Department of Transportation Library, the Natural Resources Building Library, and the Labor and Industries Library provide specialized journal subscriptions and book purchasing for their employees.

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) is a nonpartisan public research group,

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established by the Legislature in 1983. The WSIPP carries out research at the direction of the Legislature or its Board of Directors, conducting multi-disciplinary research and cost-benefit analysis in areas such as general government, education, criminal justice, and health.

Summary of Bill:

The WSIPP must conduct a study addressing, at a minimum, potential funding, organizational structure, and policy mechanisms that would provide state employees with electronic access to peer-reviewed journals. The study must be completed by December 1, 2026, and submitted to the appropriate committees of the Legislature.

Appropriation: The sum of \$83,000 is appropriated from the general fund to The Evergreen State College.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.