

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHB 1219

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Law & Justice, March 27, 2025
Ways & Means, April 8, 2025

Title: An act relating to the interbranch advisory committee.

Brief Description: Concerning the interbranch advisory committee.

Sponsors: Representatives Taylor, Farivar and Simmons.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/12/25, 58-39.

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 3/25/25, 3/27/25 [DPA-WM, DNP, w/oRec].
Ways & Means: 4/04/25, 4/08/25 [DPA (LAW), DNP, w/oRec].

Brief Summary of Amended Bill

- Increases the number of members on the Interbranch Advisory Committee (Committee) from the judicial branch from eight to nine members.
- Extends the sunset date to January 1, 2031.
- Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide staff support for the Committee.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.
Signed by Senators Dhingra, Chair; Trudeau, Vice Chair; Holy, Ranking Member;
Lovick, Salomon and Valdez.

Minority Report: Do not pass.
Signed by Senator Fortunato.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Torres and Wagoner.

Staff: Patrick Moore (786-7535)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended by Committee on Law & Justice.

Signed by Senators Robinson, Chair; Stanford, Vice Chair, Operating; Trudeau, Vice Chair, Capital; Frame, Vice Chair, Finance; Cleveland, Conway, Dhingra, Hansen, Kauffman, Pedersen, Riccelli, Saldaña, Wellman and Wilson, C..

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Gildon, Ranking Member, Operating; Torres, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating; Schoesler, Ranking Member, Capital; Dozier, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Boehnke, Braun, Muzzall, Wagoner and Warnick.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Hasegawa.

Staff: Tianyi Lan (786-7432)

Background: The Interbranch Advisory Committee (Committee) was created in 2022 to foster cooperation, communication, coordination, collaboration, and planning regarding issues of mutual concern among the three branches of state government, and to suggest ways to provide access to justice and to court services in a just and equitable manner. The three branches of state government are: (1) the legislative branch, composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives, (2) the executive branch, led by the Governor's Office, and (3) the judicial branch, headed by the State Supreme Court.

Membership of the Committee includes:

- four legislative members:
 1. one from each of the two largest caucuses of the House of Representatives who sit on the Appropriations Committee or Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee; and
 2. one from each of the two largest caucuses of the Senate and who sit on the Ways and Means Committee or Law and Justice Committee;
- one person from the Governor's Office;
- one person from the Office of the Attorney General;
- one person representing cities;
- one person who is an elected county councilmember representing counties;
- one person representing court clerks;
- eight members from the judicial branch; and
- two nonvoting members:

1. one member from the Office of the Public Defense, and
2. one member from the Office of Civil Legal Aid.

Summary of Amended Bill: The sunset date for the Committee is repealed, making the Committee permanent. The number of judicial branch members on the Committee is increased from eight to nine. The Administrative Office of the Courts is required to provide staff support for the Committee. The Committee is authorized to set its own meeting schedule. The Committee is directed to discuss issues of mutual concern between the three branches of government.

EFFECT OF LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT(S):

- Removes the repeal of the sunset date of January 1, 2026, and extends the sunset date to January 1, 2031.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Engrossed House Bill (Law & Justice): *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: This is a simple, good governance bill that connects the three branches of government on issues within the judiciary. It brings many stakeholders together on issues such as access to justice for the poor and attacks on the judiciary. It addresses efficiencies that can help the judiciary with administration of justice.

Persons Testifying (Law & Justice): PRO: Representative Jamila Taylor, Prime Sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Law & Justice): No one.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Bill as Amended by LAW (Ways & Means): None.

Persons Testifying (Ways & Means): No one.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Ways & Means): No one.