SENATE BILL REPORT
SHB 1281

As of March 25, 2025

Title: An act relating to making technical corrections and removing obsolete language from the Revised Code of Washington pursuant to RCW 1.08.025.

Brief Description: Making technical corrections and removing obsolete language from the Revised Code of Washington pursuant to RCW 1.08.025.

Sponsors: House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Goodman, Simmons and Hill; by request of Statute Law Committee).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/5/25, 97-0.
Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 3/25/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Makes technical corrections to numerous provisions of the Revised Code of Washington.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Staff: Patrick Moore (786-7535)

Background: Inaccuracies in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) may occur in a variety of ways. Sections may be repealed, recodified, or amended in a way that changes their internal numbering, and references to these sections or subsections in other provisions of the code then become incorrect. A bill may change a particular term and references to these terms in other provisions of the code become inaccurate, or drafting and typographical errors may be made in the drafting process.

Two or more bills may amend the same section of the RCW without reference to each other. These are called double or multiple amendments. Usually, there are no substantive conflicts between the multiple amendments, and the amendments may be merged, but sometimes

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merging multiple amendments may require restructuring a section.

The Office of the Code Reviser (Code Reviser), under the direction of the Statute Law Committee, is authorized to correct certain manifest errors in the statutes. These errors may include such things as mistakes in spelling, or obvious clerical or typographical errors. The Code Reviser is also authorized to recommend to the Legislature changes regarding deficiencies, conflicts, or obsolete provisions in the RCW.

Summary of Bill: Technical corrections are made to numerous sections of law, including revisions that:

- reorder legislatively recognized days by calendar order;
- correct cross references concerning the sentencing of sex offenders and the definition of liquor retailers;
- correct a drafting error concerning the number of hours of supervised experience required for licensed advanced social workers;
- renumber a definition section in order to combine two subsections defining the term commercial telephone solicitor;
- correct errors in internal references in the Washington Business Corporation Act;
- remove a duplicative cross reference created by merging multiple amendments;
- decodify sections relating to various groups whose work has concluded;
- repeal a session law section omitted in error from a prior section repeal;
- correct cross references to reflect the recodification of sections and changes in subsection numbering;
- merge multiple amendments created when sections were amended without reference to other amendments made in the same session;
- change a reference to "the developmentally disabled" to "individuals with developmental disabilities;"
- change the term "marijuana" to "cannabis" in uncodified notes published in the RCW;
- change the term "Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission" to "State Board of Nursing" in accordance with 2023 legislation; and
- change the term "advanced registered nurse practitioner" to "advanced practice registered nurse" in accordance with 2024 legislation.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Effective Date: The bill contains several effective dates. Please refer to the bill.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The Statute Law Committee oversees the Office of the Code Reviser. Statute requires that revisions be regularly submitted for corrections such as changes in terms, spelling mistakes, and amendments that need to be

merged. It is truly a technical bill. This is distinct from errors and omissions bills which address laws that the Chief Justice points out have constitutional issues.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Kathleen Buchli, Office of the Code Reviser; Alice Im, Office of the Code Reviser.

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