

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5245

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As of January 27, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to the oath of office for members of the state legislature.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the oath of office for members of the state legislature.

**Sponsors:** Senators Krishnadasan, Valdez, Nobles, Shewmake and Wilson, J..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections: 1/28/25.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grants the legislative authority of each county power to administer oaths of office to state legislators.</li></ul>
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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

**Staff:** Danielle Creech (786-7412)

**Background:** Oaths of Office. After the election results have been certified, every person elected to an office in the state of Washington, including jurisdictions within counties, cities, and towns, is required by the Washington constitution, or statutes, or both to take an oath or affirmation of office prior to serving. The oath or affirmation of office must comply with the appropriate statute or, if none is specified for that office, in accordance with the oath or affirmation set forth in statute. Depending on the office and tradition, the oath or affirmation of office may be taken or attested either verbally or in writing.

Legislative Oaths of Office. Traditionally, state legislative officers are administered an oath of office at the start of the legislative session. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution requires that all executive, judicial, and legislative officials of the state must swear an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution. Article I, section 6 of the Washington State

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*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.*

Constitution stipulates that the mode of administering an oath, or affirmation, shall be such as may be most consistent with and binding upon the conscience of the person to whom such oath, or affirmation, may be administered.

**Summary of Bill:** The bill as referred to committee not considered.

**Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute):** The legislative authority of each county is granted power to administer oaths of office to state legislators.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

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