

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5522

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As of February 21, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to the state capitol campus.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the state capitol campus.

**Sponsors:** Senators Krishnadasan, Wilson, J., Trudeau, Valdez, Schoesler, Riccelli, Bateman, Dozier, Nobles, Saldaña, Salomon and Wilson, C.; by request of Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections: 2/04/25, 2/11/25 [DPS-WM].

Ways & Means: 2/24/25.

**Brief Summary of First Substitute Bill**

- Expounds on the building naming process.
- Adjusts responsibilities related to capital projects for the capitol campus.
- Modifies the membership of the State Capitol Committee and the Capitol Campus Design Subcommittee.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5522 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Valdez, Chair; Krishnadasan, Vice Chair; Wilson, J., Ranking Member; Fortunato, Hasegawa, Kauffman, McCune, Riccelli and Short.

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

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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.*

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Staff:** Shani Bauer (786-7468)

**Background:** Naming of Buildings, Rooms, or Spaces on the Capitol Campus. Under current law, the Legislature approves names for new or existing buildings, public rooms, or spaces on the state capitol grounds. This approval is based on recommendations from the State Capitol Committee and the director of the Department of Enterprise Services (DES), with the advice of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee (CCDAC). There are a few limitations on the naming process. First, an existing building may be renamed only after a substantial renovation or a change in the predominant tenant agency headquartered in the building. Second, a new or existing building, public room, or space may only be named or renamed after:

- an individual who has played a significant role in Washington history;
- the purpose of the building, room, or space;
- the single or predominant tenant agency headquartered in the building;
- a significant place name or natural place in Washington;
- a Native American tribe located in Washington;
- a group of people or type of person; or
- any other appropriate person consistent with existing limitations and recommended by the director of DES.

Capitol grounds is defined to mean buildings and land owned by the state and otherwise designated as the capitol grounds, including the west capitol campus, the east capitol campus, the north capitol campus, the Tumwater campus, the Lacey campus, Sylvester Park, Centennial Park, the Old Capitol Building, and Capitol Lake.

State Capitol Committee Membership and Responsibilities. The State Capitol Committee consists of the Governor or their designee, the Lieutenant Governor, the secretary of state, and the commissioner of public lands, ex officio. The State Capitol Committee may erect permanent or temporary buildings, excavate or partially excavate for any such building or buildings, partially erect buildings, and make improvements upon the capitol grounds.

Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee Membership and Responsibilities. CCDAC is an advisory group to the State Capitol Committee and the director of DES. CCDAC reviews programs, planning, design, and landscaping of state capitol facilities and grounds, and makes recommendations that contribute to the attainment of architectural, aesthetic, functional, and environmental excellence of facilities on the capitol campus and in neighboring communities. CCDAC must review plans and designs that affect state capitol facilities as they are developed. This review is required to include:

- the process of solicitation and selection of professional design services;
- compliance with the capitol campus master plan and design concepts adopted by the State Capitol Committee;
- the design, siting, and grouping of facilities relative to the service needs of state

- government and the impact upon the local community's economy, environment, traffic patterns, and other factors;
- the relationship of overall state capitol facility planning to the respective comprehensive plans for long-range, urban development of the cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater as well as Thurston County; and
  - landscaping plans and designs.

CCDAC membership includes:

- the secretary of state;
- two members of the House of Representatives, one from each caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- two members of the Senate, one from each caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- four members appointed by the director of DES, including two architects, a landscape architect, and an urban planner.

The director of DES is responsible for appointing the chair and vice chair of CCDAC, as well as providing staff and resources. CCDAC must meet at least once every 90 days and at the call of the chair.

**Summary of Bill (First Substitute): Naming of Buildings, Rooms, or Spaces on the Capitol Campus.** The definition of capitol campus is updated to include: the east, west, and north capitol campus grounds, Sylvester Park, Heritage Park, Marathon Park, Centennial Park, the Deschutes river basin commonly known as Capitol Lake, the interpretive center, Deschutes Parkway, and the landscape, memorials, artwork, fountains, streets, sidewalks, lighting, and infrastructure in each of these areas not including state-owned aquatic lands in these areas managed by the Department of Natural Resources; the public spaces and the historic interior and exterior elements of the visitor center, the Governor's Mansion, the Legislative Building, the John L. O'Brien Building, the Cherberg Building, the Newhouse Building, the Pritchard Building, the Temple of Justice, the Insurance Building, the Dolliver Building, Capitol Court, and the old capitol buildings; the ProArts Building, 721 Columbia Building, State Farm Building, 120 Union Building, and Washington Building.

The Legislature shall by concurrent resolution approve names for new or existing buildings, public rooms, or spaces on the capitol campus. The Legislature may only approve building names recommended by a vote of the State Capitol Committee. Existing statutory limitations are retained, with a few adjustments. First, language is added to clarify that existing buildings may be renamed after a substantial renovation where the renovation costs exceed 50 percent of the replacement cost for the building, or a project that includes rehabilitation of more than 50 percent of the building as determined by DES. A new or existing building, public room, or space may only be named or renamed after:

- an individual who has played a significant role in Washington history;
- the purpose of the building, room, or space;
- the single or predominant tenant agency headquartered in the building;

- a significant place name or natural place in Washington;
- a Native American tribe located in Washington; or
- a group of people or type of person.

In addition to current statutory limitations in place, buildings on the capitol campus may only be named after individuals after they have been deceased for ten years.

Department of Enterprise Services. DES must present information on proposed capital projects for the capitol campus to the State Capitol Committee by December 31st each year. By December 1st of each even-numbered year, DES must present an updated campus stewardship programmatic report to the State Capitol Committee for approval. The report must include landscaping of capitol facilities and grounds, historic preservation, and maintenance of capitol facilities on campus. DES is also required to provide staff to the State Capitol Committee for support and records maintenance, rather than provide staff to the Capitol Campus Design Subcommittee (Subcommittee) for the same purposes.

State Capitol Committee Membership and Responsibilities. The following members are added to the State Capitol Committee:

- the superintendent of public instruction, or their designee;
- the state treasurer, or their designee;
- the attorney general, or their designee;
- the chief justice, or their designee;
- two members of the House State Government and Tribal Relations Committee, one from each caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- two members of the House Capital Budget Committee, one from each caucus, who must serve as the chair, vice chair, ranking member, or assistant ranking member of the State Capitol Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- two members of the Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections Committee, one from each caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- two members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, one from each caucus, who must serve as the chair, capital budget vice chair, capital budget ranking member, or capital budget assistant ranking member, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

The State Capitol Committee must elect a chair and vice chair by a majority vote to serve a one-year term. The chair and vice chair are required to serve different branches of government. A majority of all members of the State Capitol Committee constitutes a quorum. The Committee must meet at least 4 times each year.

The State Capitol Committee is responsible for building construction, building naming recommendations, approval of campus master plans, special designations regarding the capitol campus, and approval of memorials and statues in all public spaces of the capitol campus. The Committee must review and approve all major capital projects on the capitol campus. Major capital projects is defined to mean the siting and design of new buildings,

memorials, and statues on the capitol campus, and the rehabilitation of existing buildings where the renovation costs exceed 50 percent of the replacement cost for the building, or a project that includes rehabilitation of more than 50 percent of the building, as determined by DES. Changes to the Governor's Mansion and grounds, security enhancements to the capitol campus, maintenance projects, and building rehabilitations falling below the 50 percent threshold are not considered major capital projects. The State Capitol Committee must review the proposed ten-year DES Capitol Campus Capital Plan and make a recommendation to the Legislature regarding importance, impact, and prioritization of proposed projects for the capital budget. By March 1st each year, the State Capitol Committee must make a recommendation to DES on proposed capital projects for the capitol campus.

Capitol Campus Design Subcommittee Membership and Responsibilities. The CCDAC is renamed the Subcommittee. The following members are added to the Subcommittee, and must be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the director of DES:

- three campus agency facility operations leaders, at least one of which must be a facility operations leader from the house or senate; and
- the director of the Washington State Arts Commission, or their designee.

The following members are removed from the Subcommittee:

- the secretary of state;
- two members of the House of Representatives, one from each caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
- two members of the Senate, one from each caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate.

The Subcommittee must provide experience and context to blend operations with design and construction, thinking through current restraints and ongoing costs. The Subcommittee will provide guidance and planning for the ten-year DES Capitol Campus Capital Plan, and provide recommended timing for ongoing campus facility renewals.

#### **EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (First Substitute):**

- Specifies that the State Capitol Committee will review the ten-year DES Capitol Campus Plan.
- Modifies the dates by which DES must present information to the State Capitol Committee, and the State Capitol Committee must make recommendations to DES.
- Adjusts the definition of "capitol campus."
- Requires the State Capitol Committee to meet four times a year.
- Provides a definition for "major capital projects", explicitly excluding changes to the executive residence and grounds, security enhancements to the campus, maintenance projects and other building rehabilitations below the 50 percent threshold.
- Subjects only major capital projects to the review and approval of the State Capitol

Committee.

- Removes the requirement for the State Capitol Committee to review and approve artwork in public spaces on the capitol campus.

**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 Original Bill (State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections):** *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: It was surprising to learn that the process of naming state buildings on the capitol campus and making other facility related to decisions is not well defined, and the few processes in place were not always followed. The stewardship mission as originally contemplated in the State Capitol Committee process is broken. This legislation fortifies that mission. The Lieutenant Governor has called for action to fix the current system in place for naming capitol campus buildings, preserving memorials, and guiding future master planning to ensure stewardship of the beautiful State Capitol Campus. This bill is that fix. It proposes a stronger and more inclusive State Capitol Committee, expanding its membership from four to sixteen members, including eight legislators and representation for the Administrative Office of the Courts. The bill also establishes clear criteria and guidelines to serve the future of our Capitol Campus and ensure it reflects our shared history, values, and aspirations. With these changes, we can ensure our state's most significant public spaces will stand the test of time for hundreds of years.

**Persons Testifying (State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections):** PRO: Senator Deborah Krishnadasan, Prime Sponsor; Denny Heck, Lt. Governor; Steve Hobbs, Secretary of State; Brittany Gregory, Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections):** No one.