CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5049

69th Legislature
2025 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate February 25, 2025
Yeas 49 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 11, 2025
Yeas 95 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5049** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

Secretary of State
State of Washington

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5049

Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators J. Wilson, McCune, and Fortunato)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/25.

AN ACT Relating to the public records exemptions accountability committee; and amending RCW 42.56.140.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Sec. 1. RCW 42.56.140 and 2007 c 198 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) The public records exemptions accountability committee is created to review exemptions from public disclosure, with thirteen members as provided in this subsection.

(i) The governor shall appoint two members, one of whom represents the governor and one of whom represents local government.

(ii) The attorney general shall appoint two members, one of whom represents the attorney general and one of whom represents a statewide media association.

(iii) The state auditor shall appoint one member.

(iv) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

(v) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives.

(vi) The governor shall appoint four members of the public, with consideration given to diversity of viewpoint and geography.

(b) The governor shall select the chair of the committee from among its membership.

(c) Terms of the members shall be four years and shall be staggered, beginning August 1, 2007.

(2) The purpose of the public records exemptions accountability committee is to review public disclosure exemptions and provide recommendations pursuant to subsection (7)(d) of this section. The committee shall develop and publish criteria for review of public exemptions.

(3) All meetings of the committee shall be open to the public.

(4) The committee must consider input from interested parties.

(5) The office of the attorney general and the office of financial management shall provide staff support to the committee.

(6) Legislative members of the committee shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members, except those representing an employer or organization, are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(7)(a) Beginning August 1, 2007, the code reviser shall provide the committee by August 1st of each year with a list of all public disclosure exemptions in the Revised Code of Washington.

(b) The committee shall develop a schedule to accomplish a review of each public disclosure exemption. The committee shall publish the schedule and publish any revisions made to the schedule.

(c) The chair shall convene an initial meeting of the committee by September 1, 2007. The committee shall meet at least ((~~once a quarter~~)) four times a year and may hold additional meetings at the call of the chair or by a majority vote of the members of the committee.

(d) For each public disclosure exemption, the committee shall provide a recommendation as to whether the exemption should be continued without modification, modified, scheduled for sunset review at a future date, or terminated. By November 15th of each year, the committee shall transmit its recommendations to the governor, the attorney general, and the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate.

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