
SENATE BILL 6560

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Holmquist Newbry, Angel, and Benton

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing legislative transparency by providing
2 mandatory notice and waiting periods before legislative action, banning
3 title-only bills, and opening all legislative committees to the public;
4 and adding new sections to chapter 44.04 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) All bills introduced, and any proposed substitute, striking
9 amendment, or conference committee report thereon, must be made
10 publicly available to the members of the legislature and the public at
11 least seventy-two hours before the bill is eligible for a public
12 hearing, legislative action, or to be voted on by the senate or the
13 house of representatives.

14 (2) At least seventy-two hours notice must be given of all public
15 hearings held by any legislative committee. Such notice shall contain
16 the date, time, and place of the hearing together with the title and
17 number of each bill, or identification of the subject matter, to be
18 considered at the hearing.

1 (3) No bill is eligible for legislative action of any kind unless
2 it has first been subject to a public hearing in the same session of
3 consideration.

4 (4) No bill is eligible for legislative action on the floor of
5 either the senate or house of representatives until forty-eight hours
6 after it has been placed on the floor calendar.

7 (5) No bill is eligible for final passage in either house of the
8 legislature unless copies of the bill, in the final form to be passed,
9 have been made available to the members of that house of the
10 legislature and the public for at least twenty-four hours.

11 (6) This section may be suspended by a two-thirds roll call vote of
12 the members elected to the house of the legislature in which it is
13 pending, and every individual consideration of a bill or action
14 suspending this section must be recorded in the journal of the
15 respective house of the legislature.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 No bill is eligible for public hearing or legislative consideration
19 of any kind unless the bill lays forth in full the changes to any act
20 or sections of law. Title-only bills are prohibited.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 (1) All committees of the legislature are open to the public and
24 shall follow the requirements of chapter 42.30 RCW.

25 (2) A policy committee may not temporarily adjourn solely for the
26 purpose of allowing caucus meetings with the public excluded so that
27 committee members may discuss a pending vote on a bill or amendment
28 prior to committee action on a bill.

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