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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6426**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1994 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Sutherland, Ludwig, Talmadge, Quigley, Vognild, Williams, Owen, McCaslin, Amondson, Hochstatter, West, Erwin, Bauer, Pelz, A. Smith, Hargrove, Skratek and Oke)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to public electronic access to government  
2 information; adding a new section to chapter 42.17 RCW; creating new  
3 sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that government  
6 information is a strategic resource and needs to be managed as such and  
7 that broad public access to nonrestricted public information and  
8 records must be guaranteed. The legislature further finds that  
9 reengineering government processes along with capitalizing on  
10 advancements made in digital technology can build greater efficiencies  
11 in government service delivery. The legislature further finds that  
12 providing citizen electronic access to presently available public  
13 documents will allow increased citizen involvement in state policies  
14 and empower citizens to participate in state policy decision making.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By January 1, 1995, the legislature shall  
16 design a program for public electronic access to public legislative  
17 documents. Such a program may include on-line access to the  
18 legislature's atlas, leglink, and electronic bulletin board systems.

1 The program may also include fax-request services, providing  
2 information for the internet system, contracting the provision of  
3 documents, and other service delivery options. Documents available in  
4 the program shall include, but are not limited to, bills, bill digests,  
5 bill reports, legislative reports, legislative meeting schedules, the  
6 Revised Code of Washington, the Washington Administrative Code, and  
7 attorney general opinions.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The joint legislative systems committee  
9 shall provide guidance and advice in performing the duties of section  
10 2 of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 By January 1, 1995, the public disclosure commission shall design  
14 a program for electronic access to public documents filed with the  
15 commission. The program may include on-line access to the commission's  
16 magic and electronic bulletin board systems, providing information for  
17 the internet system, fax-request service, automated telephone service,  
18 electronic filing of reports, and other service delivery options.  
19 Documents available in the program shall include, but are not limited  
20 to, public documents filed with the public disclosure commission,  
21 including, but not limited to, commission meeting schedules, financial  
22 affairs reports, contribution reports, expenditure reports, and gift  
23 reports.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The public information access policy task  
25 force is created, with membership to include the office of financial  
26 management, the department of information services, the state library,  
27 the state law library, the public disclosure commission, the division  
28 of archives and records management, the superintendent of public  
29 instruction or his or her designee, the executive director of the  
30 higher education coordinating board or his or her designee, the  
31 legislature, and the information services board. By September 30,  
32 1994, the task force shall develop and report to the legislature a  
33 comprehensive information access policy designed to ensure that  
34 information collected, created, used, and disseminated by agencies of  
35 the state of Washington will be managed, protected, and used  
36 effectively and responsibly for the public good. The task force shall

1 include in its recommendations alternative methods to address  
2 continuing and future issues of public information content policy. The  
3 task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 1995, unless otherwise  
4 reauthorized by the legislature.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** By September 30, 1994, the task force shall  
6 develop and report to the legislature the design for a program for  
7 public electronic access to government information, which shall  
8 include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

9 (1) Documents produced by or in the possession of state agencies,  
10 in all formats;

11 (2) Publicly available documents produced by or in the possession  
12 of all political subdivisions of the state.

13 The task force may consider on-line access to electronic bulletin  
14 boards; fax-request services; the internet and similar electronic  
15 systems; contracting the provision of documents; automated telephone  
16 service; the feasibility of providing public access terminals at  
17 publicly funded Washington libraries, schools, school districts, and  
18 institutions of higher education; the benefit and feasibility of  
19 electronic mail systems in public schools to provide increased  
20 communication between parents, teachers, and students; and other  
21 service delivery options. The task force shall examine and recommend  
22 minimum standards for technology compatibility; associated costs  
23 including, but not limited to, hardware, software, and delivery costs;  
24 training; and alternative funding sources for the program.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If any provision of this act or its  
26 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
27 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
28 persons or circumstances is not affected.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
32 effect immediately.

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