

MINUTES OF THE STATUTE LAW COMMITTEE MEETING
2019-2021 Biennium
June 15, 2021

The Statute Law Committee held its fourth meeting of the 2019-2021 biennium as a Zoom conference.

Agenda Item I. Chair Roger Goodman (RG) called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM. Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Members present: Chair Roger Goodman, Sharon Brown (SB), Bernard Dean (BD), Curt Gavigan (CG), Brad Hendrickson (BH), Jamie Pedersen (JP), Kyle Sciuchetti (KS), and Taylor Wonhoff (TW).

Members absent: Jeremie Dufault, Jill Reinmuth, and Sam Thompson.

Also in attendance: Representative Drew Stokesbary (DS), 31st Legislative District; Kathleen Buchli (KB), Code Reviser, Secretary to the Committee; Mark Lally (ML), Deputy Code Reviser; Alice Im (AI), Code Reviser Staff Attorney; Jennifer Meas (JM), Washington State Register (WSR) Editor; Jessica Braatz (JB), Administrative Assistant; and Shayne O'Grady (SO), Administrative Assistant.

Agenda Item II. JP moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020, meeting, seconded by TW. All in attendance voted to approve. The minutes were adopted.

Agenda Item III. AI updated the committee on publications. There are 334 Session Law chapters for 2021, and they are on track to be posted online in the next week or two. The Code Reviser's Office (CRO) is working with Legislative Support Services to print paper copies of the Session Laws and will order 150 sets again this year, printing more on demand if needed. Due to online availability and a decrease in orders, fewer physical sets are being ordered than in previous years. The office is working on codification and is waiting to receive the last two chapter numbers from the Secretary of State's Office.

KB updated the committee on the WSR. The office is considering discontinuing two-column publications beginning next year. The official copy is available online. Paper copies will be provided upon request in single-column format and the CRO will continue to provide the usual free copies to public libraries, etc.

Agenda Item IV. ML provided an overview of the multiple amendments process. The members discussed the process and how conflicts are resolved. The committee discussed ways of cleaning up the conflicts legislatively. CG offered Senate Committee Services' assistance with preparation of correction of other, non-technical multiple amendments. KB will be in contact with the House & Senate with a list of double amendments in the code that could be cleaned up. KB made a motion to approve the table, seconded by BH. All in attendance voted to approve and the motion carried.

Agenda Item V. DS gave an overview of HB 1230 and explained some of the reasoning behind the bill. KB has been working with LEG-TECH regarding the formatting changes; LEG-TECH should be able to look into it during the 2022 Legislative Session. The changes would need to be heavily audited and care taken to ensure meanings are not inadvertently changed. The committee discussed adopting a policy for going forward but decided to wait until KB has had further discussions with LEG-TECH. Chair RG indicated that it will be discussed again at the next SLC meeting.

Agenda Item VI. KB updated the committee on its financial status for the current fiscal year. The 197-publications fund balance is expected to decrease as sales decrease, but it is healthy now. The CRO is keeping an eye on cost to produce vs. selling price.

Agenda Item VII. KB updated the committee on the accountability audit by the State Auditor's Office. The auditor looked at revenue, overtime, and the purchase card. The audit is complete with no findings and a thanks to JB for her great work. JB provided a brief overview of the auditor's suggestions regarding tracking overtime, which will be implemented next session.

Agenda Item VIII. KB expressed thanks to BH and BD regarding the workrooms' support during the 2021 Legislative Session. This was a challenging year and the CRO was able to maintain great working relationships with both of them. KB provided a statistical report on drafts processed by the CRO. The number of Session laws is down from 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 145 Initiatives have been processed through June 1, 2021.

JM provided information on e-filing the WSR and proposed two changes: to remove the requirement of the subject line text to allow for better recordkeeping, and to allow electronic signatures instead of the requirement of sending an ink

signature.

Chair RG inquired about CRO Staff. KB updated the committee on CRO staffing. There are no upcoming retirements. Three new employees have been hired to replace exiting staff. Full COVID protocols are still in place. ML thanked the House and Senate for the great work they did during such an odd session.

JP moved to adjourn, seconded by TW. Thereupon, Chair RG adjourned the meeting at 12:12 PM, the next meeting to be held at the call of the chair.

ROGER GOODMAN, Chair Date

KATHLEEN BUCHLI, Secretary