

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STATUTE LAW COMMITTEE
2011-2013 Biennium**

May 30, 2012

The Statute Law Committee held its second meeting of the 2011-2013 biennium at 1:30 p.m. in the Senate Rules Room located in the Legislative Building in Olympia.

The meeting opened with Chair Marty Brown presiding.

Members present: Baker, Conte, Goodman, Hoemann, Owens, Panesko, and Rodger.

Members absent: Carrell, Kline, Rodne.

Also in attendance were Kyle Thiessen, Code Reviser, who serves as the committee's secretary; Lew Lewis, Deputy Code Reviser; and Debbie Deibert, Administrative Secretary.

The minutes of the previous Statute Law Committee meetings on January 4, 2012 were approved. (Tab 1)

Kyle gave a general overview on the session activities of the office during the 2012 legislative sessions. He commented that the amount of work was typical of a short session. He stated that the session laws would be going to the publisher soon. For the 60-day regular session, a 30-day 1st special session and 1-day 2nd special session, the Governor signed a total of 279 bills.

Lew revisited and summarized Kerry Radcliff's presentation made to the Statute Law Committee last June on the ease with which a person can download and print a section or chapter of the Washington Administrative Code from the Code Reviser's website. Kerry had talked about the new method for publication and what would appear as "official" on our web site. Each chapter now starts on its own page and "stands alone" so anyone can view and print a specific chapter.

Lew informed the committee that the published version of the WAC went on pre-sale for \$500 per set from January until mid-February and that there had been 150 orders. It was decided that binding that many WAC sets would be too big of a task for in-house production, so the bid went out through DES. The WAC sets will be sent out in early June.

Lew continued his report on the sales and distribution of publications by informing the committee that 900 sets of the session laws would be produced this year. Six years ago, it was not unusual to give away approximately 1,500 session law sets out of the 3,000 sets produced. Because of changes to the law, approximately 350 sets are now given away. A short discussion was held on free paper publications to different entities and also the electronic data base which is provided to three publishers through a contract. It was mentioned also, that there may be interest in designing an application for iPhones or smart phones which would download rules and statutes. (Tab 2)

Kyle reported that the office's general fund finances are adequate to finish fiscal year 2012. A history of the office's budget reductions, reduction strategies and efficiencies was included in the committee information packet. With the reduction of bill drafting workload over the course of the past sessions, the office has been able to manage with only eight attorneys. The bill drafting clerical staff has capped out at cross-training and with four pregnancies, hiring for the legislative session was necessary in order to ensure accurate and timely bill drafts and good service to the legislature. He noted that hiring a full-time proofreader, a session attorney and a session office secretary for the 2013 legislative session would be in the best interest of the office. (Tab 3)

The committee discussed the travel and dues for the Uniform Legislation Commission. It was suggested that the ULC members travel should follow the same theme as last year with a designated amount for travel which is divided up among the 5 commissioners. Kyle will not be attending the national meeting, but his travel is paid for out of the office's appropriation. Also, it was suggested that a fifty percent payment for the national dues be made. Justice Owens felt the national dues should be paid in full and she felt it is important to attend and participate fully in the annual conference. After a brief discussion the majority of the committee felt that a fifty percent dues payment would be in line with the practices of dues payments by other legislative entities during these difficult financial times. Also, a limit of \$12,000 was set for the combined travel expenses of the members of the Uniform Law Commission. (Tab 4)

Kyle outlined the efficiencies undertaken by the Code Reviser's staff during these difficult economic times. A copy of the new expenditure authority schedule, allotment breakdown and history of budget reductions for the office was provided to the members. The committee thanked Kyle for efficiencies realized and modernization of the office since he became Code Reviser in 2005. (Tab 5)

A list of 2012 double amendments and was provided to the members. The list contains information on attorney assignment, RCW number affected, what chapter law was amended, comment by the assigned attorney, and the recommendation on how to display the section(s). Office of Program Research and Senate Committee Services staff also receive this list via e-mail and are able to give their opinion on how to display conflicting sections. A motion was made and seconded that the committee be given two weeks to review the recommendations before Code Reviser staff proceeds with displaying or merging the conflicting language.

Kyle gave details on the progress of the gender neutral bills offered by the committee these past many years. Next legislative session could be the last year in which a gender neutral bill will need to be offered to the legislature. A discussion was held on various bills introduced and passed by the legislature. The discussion included code clean-up bills, technical correction bills and editorial authority of the Code Reviser's Office.

Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m., the next meeting to be held at the call of the Chair.

K. KYLE THIESSEN, Secretary

MARTY BROWN, Chair

Date

(Tab references are to the meeting binder.)