

CHAPTER 206.

[ H. B. 13. ]

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE.

AN ACT relating to legislative interim committees; amending sections 2 and 7, chapter 36, Laws of 1947 and RCW 44.24-.020 and RCW 44.24.070, and section 1, chapter 142, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.24.060; amending sections 1, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.010, 44.28.020, 44.28.030, 44.28.050, 44.28.080, 44.28.110 and RCW 44.28.140; repealing section 3, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.070; and declaring an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

Amendment.

SECTION 1. Section 2, chapter 36, Laws of 1947 and RCW 44.24.020 are each amended to read as follows:

Council powers and duties.

The council shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To perform, either through the council as a whole or through subcommittees thereof all duties and functions customarily delegated to special interim legislative committees: *Provided*, That any appointments of subcommittee chairmen shall be approved by not less than twelve members of the council;

Approval of appointments.

Study administrative organization and procedures; make recommendations.

(2) To examine and study the administrative organization and procedures of the state government, its offices, boards, committees, commissions, institutions, and other state agencies and to make recommendations, where found advisable, directed to the elimination of unnecessary overlapping or duplication of functions, procedures and expenditures, and to the promotion of economy and efficiency in state government;

Hear complaints; hold hearings; make findings.

(3) To make such other studies and examinations of the state government and its state agencies as it may find advisable and to hear complaints, hold hearings, gather information and make findings of fact with respect thereto: *Provided*, That no in-

vestigation shall be had or public hearing be held without prior approval of two-thirds of the membership of the council: *Provided further*, That any investigation or hearing once commenced may be terminated by a majority vote of the council;

Investigation approval.

Investigation termination.

(4) To receive messages and reports in person or in writing from the governor or any other state officials and to attend generally to any and all business addressed to or affecting the legislature during the interim between regular legislative sessions;

Reports from state officials.

(5) To make reports from time to time to the members of the legislature and to the public with respect to any of its findings or recommendations. The council shall keep complete minutes of its meetings. The council shall make and distribute its biennial report to the members of the ensuing legislature at least ten days prior to the convening of the legislature in regular session; and

Reports to legislators and public.

Biennial report.

(6) To cooperate, act, and function with similar councils or committees of other states, with the council of state governments, and with other interstate research organizations.

Interstate research organizations.

SEC. 2. Section 1, chapter 142, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.24.060 are each amended to read as follows:

Amendment.

The members of the council shall be reimbursed for their expenses incurred while attending sessions of the council or meetings of any subcommittees of the council or while engaged on other council business authorized by the council to the extent of fifteen dollars per day plus eight cents per mile in going and coming from council sessions or subcommittee meetings or for travel on other council business authorized by the council. All expenses incurred by the council, including salaries of employees, shall be paid upon voucher forms as provided by the state auditor and signed by the chairman or vice chairman of the council and attested by the secretary of said council, and the authority of said chairman and

Reimbursement.

Payment of expenses.

secretary to sign vouchers shall continue until their successors are selected. Vouchers may be drawn upon funds appropriated generally by the legislature for legislative expenses or upon any special appropriation which may be provided by the legislature for the expenses of the council.

Amendment.

SEC. 3. Section 7, chapter 36, Laws of 1947 and RCW 44.24.070 are each amended to read as follows:

Rules and regulations.

The state legislative council shall have authority to make its own rules and regulations governing the conduct of its business not otherwise prescribed in this chapter. The term of office of all council members shall be from the time of confirmation or election until (1) their successors have been appointed and confirmed or elected as provided in RCW 44.24.010, or until they cease to be members

Office terms.

of the legislature. Vacancies on the council among the senate members of the council may be filled by appointment by the remaining senate members. Vacancies on the council among the members of the house of representatives may be filled by appointment by the remaining house members. All such vacancies shall be filled from the same political party as that of the member whose seat was vacated. All of the minutes, records, and files of the council and its subcommittees shall be delivered over by the council to the speaker of the house of representatives or to the president of the senate at the convening of each regular or special session of the legislature, which minutes, records, and files shall be held subject to the order of the senate and house of representatives, and shall thereafter be redelivered to the members of the council forthwith, but in no event later than five days after adjournment sine die of the legislature.

Vacancies on council.

Delivery of records and files of council.

Vacancies on the council among the senate members of the council may be filled by appointment by the remaining senate members. Vacancies on the council among the members of the house of representatives may be filled by appointment by the remaining house members. All such vacancies shall be filled from the same political party as that of the member whose seat was vacated. All of the minutes, records, and files of the council and its subcommittees shall be delivered over by the council to the speaker of the house of representatives or to the president of the senate at the convening of each regular or special session of the legislature, which minutes, records, and files shall be held subject to the order of the senate and house of representatives, and shall thereafter be redelivered to the members of the council forthwith, but in no event later than five days after adjournment sine die of the legislature.

Amendment.

SEC. 4. Section 1, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.010 are each amended to read as follows:

There is hereby created a legislative budget committee which shall consist of five senators and five representatives from the legislature. The senate members of the committee shall be appointed by the president of the senate and the house members of the committee shall be appointed by the speaker of the house after consultation between such presiding officers to the end that not more than five members shall be from any political party. All members shall be appointed before the close of the 1951 session of the legislature and before the close of each regular session thereafter. Members shall be subject to confirmation, as to the senate members by the senate, and as to the house members by the house. In the event of a failure to appoint committee members, either on the part of the president of the senate or on the part of the speaker of the house, or in the event of a refusal by either the senate or the house to confirm appointments on the committee, then the members of the committee from either house in which there is a failure to appoint or confirm shall be elected forthwith by the members of such house.

Legislative budget committee.

Appointment of members.

Confirmation of members.

Failure to appoint or confirm members.

SEC. 5. Section 12, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.020 are each amended to read as follows:

Amendment.

The term of office of the members of the committee who continue to be members of the senate and house shall be from the close of the session in which they were appointed or elected as provided in RCW 44.28.010 until the close of the next regular session, or, in the event that such appointments or elections are not made, until the close of the next regular session during which successors are appointed or elected. The term of office of such committee members as shall not continue to be members of the senate and house shall cease upon the convening of the next regular session of the legislature after their confirmation, election or appointment. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment by

Term of office.

Vacancies filled by appointment.

the remaining members. All such vacancies shall be filled from the same political party and from the same house as the member whose seat was vacated.

**Amendment.** SEC. 6. Section 13, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.030 are each amended to read as follows:

On and after the commencement of a succeeding general session of the legislature, those members of the committee who continue to be members of the senate and house, respectively, shall continue as members of the committee as indicated in RCW 44.28.020 and the committee shall continue with all its powers, duties, authorities, records, papers, personnel and staff, and all funds made available for its use.

**Amendment.** SEC. 7. Section 15, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.050 are each amended to read as follows:

**Payment of expenses.** All expenses incurred by the committee, including salaries and expenses of employees, shall be paid upon voucher forms as provided by the auditor and signed by the chairman or vice chairman of the committee and attested by the secretary of said committee, and the authority of said chairman and secretary to sign vouchers shall continue until their successors are selected after each ensuing session of the legislature. Vouchers may be drawn on funds appropriated generally by the legislature for legislative expenses or upon any special appropriation which may be provided by the legislature for the expenses of the committee or both.

**Amendment.** SEC. 8. Section 8, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.110 are each amended to read as follows:

**Authority to examine and inspect.** In the discharge of any duty herein imposed, the committee or any personnel under its authority and its subcommittees shall have the authority to examine and inspect all properties, equipment, facilities, files, records and accounts of any state office, department, institution, board, committee, commis-

sion or agency, and to administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of any papers, books, accounts, documents and testimony, and to cause the deposition of witnesses, either residing within or without the state, to be taken in the manner perscribed by laws for taking depositions in civil actions in the superior courts.

Oaths and subpoenas.

Depositions.

SEC. 9. Section 11, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.140 are each amended to read as follows:

Amendment.

The committee is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint an officer to be known as the legislative auditor, and to fix his compensation, who shall be the executive officer of the committee and assist in its duties and shall compile information for the committee. The committee is hereby authorized and empowered to select and employ other clerical, legal, accounting, research and other personnel that it may deem desirable in the performance of its duties, and the compensation and salaries shall be fixed by the legislative budget committee.

Appointment of legislative auditor.

The duties of the legislative auditor shall be as follows;

Duties of legislative auditor.

(1) To ascertain the facts and make recommendations to the committee and under their direction to the committees of the state legislature concerning

- (a) state budget;
- (b) revenues and expenditures of the state;
- (c) the organization and functions of the state, its departments, subdivisions and agencies.

(2) To assist the appropriations committees of the house and senate, respectively, in consideration of the budget and all bills carrying express or implied appropriations and all legislation affecting state departments and their efficiency; to appear before any other legislative committee and to assist any

other legislative committees upon instruction by the legislative budget committee.

(3) To provide the legislature with information obtained under the direction of the legislative budget committee.

(4) To maintain a record of all work performed by the legislative auditor under the direction of the legislative budget committee and to keep and make available all documents, data and reports submitted to him by any legislative committee.

Amendment.

SEC. 10. Section 4, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.080 are each amended to read as follows:

Committee powers. Examination and reports concerning current condition of state funds.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(1) To make current examination and reports concerning the current condition of all state funds, appropriations and other state moneys; concerning whether or not such appropriations are being currently expended for the purposes and within the statutory restrictions provided by the legislature; concerning the current availability of revenue to meet expenditures under appropriations; and concerning the organization and operation of procedures necessary or desirable to control the expenditures and other fiscal operations of the state government, its officers, boards, committees, commissions, institutions and other state agencies, and to make recommendations and reports to the legislature.

Studies and examinations of expenses of state government.

(2) To make such other studies and examinations of the expenses of the state government and its state agencies as it may find advisable, and to hear complaints, hold hearings, gather information and make findings of fact with respect thereto.

Repeal.

SEC. 11. Section 3, chapter 43, Laws of 1951 and RCW 44.28.070 are each repealed.

Emergency.

SEC. 12. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety,

the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House March 9, 1955.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1955.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1955.

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## CHAPTER 207.

[ H. B. 253. ]

### TAXATION—MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL EXCISE.

AN ACT relating to the motor vehicle fuel tax; and amending section 43, chapter 269, Laws of 1951 and RCW 82.36.020, and section 3, chapter 58, Laws of 1933 and section 2, chapter 84, Laws of 1943 and section 1, chapter 151, Laws of 1953 and RCW 82.36.040, 82.36.070 and 82.36.080.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. Section 43, chapter 269, Laws of 1951 and RCW 82.36.020 are each amended to read as follows: Amendment.

Every distributor shall pay, in addition to any other taxes provided by law, an excise tax to the director of six and one-half cents for each gallon of motor vehicle fuel sold, distributed or used by him in the state: *Provided*, That under such regulations Excise tax paid by distributor.

as the director may prescribe sales or distribution of motor vehicle fuel may be made by one licensed distributor to another licensed distributor free of the tax. Exception.

In the computation of the tax, one-quarter of one percent of the net gallonage otherwise taxable shall be deducted by the distributor before computing the tax due, on account of the losses sustained through handling. Computation.

The tax herein imposed shall be collected and paid to the state but once in respect to any motor vehicle fuel. Bills should be rendered by distributors to all purchasers of inflammable petroleum products of fifty gallons or more, and upon request to all purchasers of smaller lots. In the case Bills by distributors.