

HB 2430 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Carrier: Sen. Thatcher

Action Date: 04/23/19
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Girod, Olsen, Riley
Exc: 1 - Hass
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes sunset date of Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC). Sets two-year terms for PRAC members and allows specified members to complete three- and four-year terms that began January 1, 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value of PRAC in convening stakeholders to address concerns and develop solutions
- Ongoing work of PRAC to balance transparency and privacy
- Value of dispute resolution and training services offered by Public Records Advocate

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 106 (2017) established the office of the Public Records Advocate (PRA) and the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC). The PRA is nominated by the PRAC and appointed by the Governor, and provides public records training and dispute resolution services for disputes arising from a request to inspect or receive copies of public records. The PRAC is composed of representatives from the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Department of Administrative Services, news media, state and local government, public sector workforce, and the general public. The PRA serves as chair of the PRAC. The PRAC meets at least twice annually to consider issues related to public records and make recommendations to enhance transparency. The PRAC reports annually to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly on its findings. The PRAC sunsets on January 1, 2021.

House Bill 2430 removes the sunset date of the PRAC and establishes two-year terms for PRAC members other than the PRA. The measure allows existing PRAC members to complete three- and four-year terms that began January 1, 2018.