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HOUSE BILL 1583

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Young

1 AN ACT Relating to improving constituent access and  
2 representative engagement; adding a new section to chapter 44.04 RCW;  
3 and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** For the convenience of constituents and  
6 members, members of the legislature may choose to locate their  
7 legislative offices in the legislative district they represent when  
8 the legislature is not in session. It is in the best interest of both  
9 constituents and members if in-district legislative offices are  
10 located in buildings that: Are accessible and easily located; are  
11 near transportation, parking, or both; comply with the Americans with  
12 disabilities act; are safe and inviting to the average person;  
13 maintain a level of decorum and professionalism fitting a legislative  
14 office; meet legislative requirements for district offices; and are  
15 affordable. The legislature finds that these criteria are likely best  
16 met by locating in-district legislative offices in facilities that  
17 serve other governmental purposes, such as buildings owned or  
18 operated by local governments. It is the intent of the legislature,  
19 in enacting the improving constituent access and representative  
20 engagement act, to clearly authorize local governments to lease  
21 office space to legislative members and to establish that local

1 governments that do so are not thereby obligated to lease real  
2 property of the local government to other parties, including the  
3 state or private parties.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) If a state legislative member locates his or her legislative  
7 office in the legislative district he or she represents, the member  
8 may lease appropriate office space from a local government. A local  
9 government that chooses to lease office space to a state legislative  
10 member for use as a legislative office, by virtue of executing the  
11 lease, is not thereby obligated to lease any real property of the  
12 local government to any other party, including the state, any  
13 political subdivisions of the state, or any private party.

14 (2) A state legislative member who leases office space from a  
15 local government for use as a legislative office must comply with all  
16 applicable laws, including RCW 42.52.180. A local government, by  
17 virtue of leasing office space to a state legislative member for use  
18 as a legislative office, does not violate the provisions of RCW  
19 42.17A.555.

20 (3) For purposes of this section, "local government" includes  
21 every county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-municipal  
22 corporation, or special purpose district, or any office, department,  
23 division, bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof, or other  
24 local public agency.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the  
26 improving constituent access and representative engagement act.

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