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HOUSE BILL 1822

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives McMorris, Sump, Boldt, Mulliken, Carrell and Schoesler

Read first time 02/10/97. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to a pilot program to investigate welfare fraud in  
2 Pend Oreille county; amending RCW 41.06.380; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 74.04 RCW; making an appropriation; providing an expiration  
4 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 Regardless of any rights, express or implied, created by the state  
9 civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW, and upon the request of the Pend  
10 Oreille county commissioners, the department shall enter into a  
11 contract with Pend Oreille county to investigate suspected recipient  
12 and applicant fraud related to the provision of public assistance by  
13 the department. The contract shall be for one year and reimbursement  
14 to Pend Oreille county under the contract shall not exceed the funds  
15 appropriated by section 3 of this act. The secretary may include  
16 provisions within the contract as the secretary deems necessary to  
17 assure cooperation and the sharing of information between the agency  
18 and the county in the performance of the contract, to assure

1 performance of effective and proper investigations by the county, and  
2 to assure the otherwise proper expenditure of funds.

3 The secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of the contract  
4 entered into under this section in reducing public assistance fraud.  
5 The evaluation shall indicate if the contract was a cost-effective  
6 means for investigating such fraud.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.06.380 and 1979 ex.s. c 46 s 2 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 Nothing contained in this chapter shall prohibit any department, as  
10 defined in RCW 41.06.020, from purchasing services by contract with  
11 individuals or business entities if such services were regularly  
12 purchased by valid contract by such department prior to April 23, 1979  
13 or if services were purchased by contract entered into under section 1  
14 of this act: PROVIDED, That no such contract may be executed or  
15 renewed if it would have the effect of terminating classified employees  
16 or classified employee positions existing at the time of the execution  
17 or renewal of the contract.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of sixty thousand dollars, or as  
19 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
20 ending June 30, 1998, from the general fund to the department of social  
21 and health services for the purposes of this act.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire July 1,  
23 1998.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
26 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
27 immediately.

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