
SENATE BILL 6802

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Patterson, Benton, Goings, Haugen, Winsley, Costa and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/28/2000. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the citizens' alliance for government
2 accountability; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; making an
3 appropriation; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state of
7 Washington is nationally recognized in the areas of financial
8 management, capital management, human resources, and managing for
9 results and information technology; that the executive branch of state
10 government has undertaken regulatory reform efforts, performance-based
11 budgeting efforts, and programs to improve quality, efficiency, and
12 effectiveness; and that the roles performed by the legislative auditor
13 and the state auditor are valued.

14 It is the intent of the legislature that public confidence in
15 government at all levels is essential and must be promoted by all
16 possible means, that the state's stewardship over public funds is a
17 fundamental responsibility, and that this chapter is designed to help
18 strengthen state management of public resources and the systems that

1 provide citizens the information they need to assess accountability and
2 to make informed decisions.

3 The purposes of this chapter are to:

4 (1) Establish a permanent means of bringing citizens, public
5 employees, policymakers, executives, businesses, labor organizations,
6 and management experts together for the continuous enhancement of state
7 government and agency performance and accountability and to make our
8 Washington state government and its agencies the most effective and
9 efficient in the nation;

10 (2) Assess the quality and integration of state agency strategic
11 and quality plans, performance measurement, and performance assessment
12 in planning, budgeting, and managing the state's resources;

13 (3) Evaluate whether state government and its agencies make
14 strategic and consistent efforts to engage citizens in dialogue,
15 planning, and determining accountability for programs and services;

16 (4) Determine whether citizens have the information they need to
17 assess accountability and adequate opportunities to participate in
18 their government;

19 (5) Assess the success of state agencies implementing and using new
20 technologies to improve services, facilitate citizen access, and
21 measure and enhance the satisfaction of state agency customers;

22 (6) Evaluate the effectiveness of state agencies publicizing
23 performance results and successes; and

24 (7) Use independent and comprehensive reviews to affirm the
25 effectiveness and efficiency of state government agency management and
26 use of public resources.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The citizens' alliance for government
28 accountability is established as a panel composed of nineteen members
29 as follows: (1) The governor or the governor's designee who chairs the
30 panel; (2) the state auditor or the state auditor's designee; (3) two
31 members of the house of representatives, one from each caucus,
32 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; (4) two
33 members of the senate, one from each of the major political caucuses,
34 appointed by the president of the senate; (5) a private sector, for-
35 profit, corporate chief executive officer appointed by the governor;
36 and (6) the following additional citizen members who are appointed by
37 the joint action of the governor, state auditor, and the corporate
38 chief executive officer who was appointed by the governor to reflect

1 the state's economic, social, ethnic, and political diversity: (a) Two
2 additional private sector, for-profit, corporate chief executive
3 officers; (b) a private sector, nonprofit organization chief executive;
4 (c) two state employees; (d) a representative of a labor organization;
5 (e) a management expert; (f) a manager or administrator from county or
6 city government; and (g) four general citizens. The appointed members
7 shall have management and organizational experience and be selected
8 based on letters of interest that are solicited state-wide.

9 Administrative costs and staff support for the alliance shall be
10 provided by the office of financial management, with the full
11 cooperation and participation by personnel loaned by other executive
12 agencies and legislative agencies. Volunteers shall be sought to
13 participate. The alliance may create subcommittees and advisory panels
14 to assist in its deliberations and may contract for specialized
15 expertise.

16 The alliance may solicit charitable gifts, grants, and donations
17 that are placed into the citizens' alliance for government
18 accountability account and used to offset general fund moneys
19 appropriated for such purposes.

20 State employees and officials who serve on the alliance shall serve
21 without additional compensation but shall receive normal reimbursement
22 for travel expenses incurred in the performance of duties of the
23 alliance under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, or other authority, as if
24 engaged in their normal duties. All other members of the alliance
25 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of
26 duties of the alliance in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The alliance shall make reports and
28 recommendations to increase and improve state government efficiency,
29 effectiveness, organization, operations, and accountability and to
30 achieve costs savings. By December 31, 2000, the alliance shall
31 present the legislature and governor with a strategic work plan to
32 accomplish its purposes and at least three reports making
33 recommendations. By August 15, 2001, and each August 15th thereafter,
34 the alliance shall submit more detailed reports and recommendations.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The citizens' alliance for government
36 accountability account is created in the custody of the state
37 treasurer. Expenditures from the account may only be expended to

1 finance the activities of the alliance and all expenditures must be
2 authorized by the director of the office of financial management or the
3 director's designee. Moneys in the account are not subject to
4 appropriation and are not subject to the allotment procedures under
5 chapter 43.88 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The alliance shall convene summit
7 conferences as needed throughout the state and shall actively solicit
8 participation by state employees, management experts, and the general
9 citizenry. The alliance shall benchmark the best practices of
10 government at all levels in organizing, managing, and conducting the
11 annual, independent reviews, and shall consider and use the work
12 performed by the legislative auditor, state auditor, and executive
13 branch staff.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act expire
15 December 31, 2003.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 and 9 of this act
17 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or
19 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
20 ending June 30, 2001, from the state general fund to the citizens'
21 alliance for government accountability account for the purposes of this
22 act.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
25 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
26 immediately.

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