
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1276

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Miloscia, McMorris, Haigh, Romero, D. Schmidt, Lambert, Anderson, Conway, Kenney, Kessler, Simpson, Ogden, Lovick, Morris, McIntire, Ruderman, O'Brien, Edwards and Kagi)

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the citizens' alliance for government
2 accountability; adding new sections to chapter 43.131 RCW; adding a new
3 chapter to Title 43 RCW; making an appropriation; 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 effectiveness of collaboration between the
11 executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government;

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

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

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

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

23 (7) Assign the use of independent and comprehensive reviews,
24 audits, and assessments to affirm the effectiveness and efficiency of
25 state government agency management and use of public resources;

26 (8) Establish benchmarks of the best practices of government at all
27 levels in organizing, managing, and conducting the annual, independent
28 reviews of the effectiveness and efficiency of state government agency
29 management and use of public resources; and

30 (9) Recommend to the governor and legislature organizational
31 improvements to simplify the structure of state government, reduce the
32 number of agencies, provide better service delivery, improve agency
33 efficiency and effectiveness, increase employee productivity, reduce
34 costs, achieve better decision-making accountability to the public, and
35 enhance coordination.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The citizens' alliance for government
37 accountability is established as a panel composed of six members as
38 follows: (1) The governor or the governor's designee; (2) the state

1 auditor or the state auditor's designee; and (3) four citizen members,
2 one of which is appointed by the leader of each of the two major party
3 caucuses of the house of representatives and the senate. The members
4 of the alliance shall select a chair from one of the four citizen
5 members. The alliance shall appoint task forces as needed that reflect
6 the state's economic, social, ethnic, and political diversity,
7 including private sector, for-profit, corporate chief executive
8 officers, private sector, nonprofit organization chief executives,
9 state employees, representatives of a labor organization, management
10 experts, managers or administrators from county or city government, and
11 the general citizenry.

12 Volunteers shall be sought to participate. The alliance may create
13 subcommittees and advisory panels to assist in its deliberations and
14 may contract for specialized expertise.

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

19 All members of the alliance shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
20 incurred in the performance of duties of the alliance in accordance
21 with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The alliance shall make reports and
23 recommendations to increase and improve state government efficiency,
24 effectiveness, organization, operations, and accountability and to
25 achieve costs savings. By December 31, 2001, the alliance shall
26 present the legislature and governor with a strategic work plan to
27 accomplish its purposes and shall make annual reports to the
28 legislature and governor thereafter.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The citizens' alliance for government
30 accountability account is created in the custody of the state
31 treasurer. Expenditures from the account may only be expended to
32 finance the activities of the alliance and all expenditures must be
33 authorized by the director of the office of financial management or the
34 director's designee. Moneys in the account are not subject to
35 appropriation and are not subject to the allotment procedures under
36 chapter 43.88 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The alliance shall convene summit
2 conferences as needed throughout the state and shall actively solicit
3 participation by state employees, management experts, and the general
4 citizenry.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The citizens' alliance for government accountability and its powers
8 and duties shall terminate on June 30, 2008, as provided in section 7
9 of this act.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 The following acts or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter
13 amended, are each repealed, effective June 30, 2009:

- 14 (1) Section 1 of this act;
- 15 (2) Section 2 of this act;
- 16 (3) Section 3 of this act;
- 17 (4) Section 4 of this act;
- 18 (5) Section 5 of this act; and
- 19 (6) Section 10 of this act.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 5 and 10 of this act
21 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or
23 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
24 ending June 30, 2003, from the state general fund to the citizens'
25 alliance for government accountability account for the purposes of this
26 act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act is necessary for the immediate
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
29 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
30 immediately.

--- END ---