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**SENATE BILL 5257**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kastama, Patterson and Winsley

Read first time 01/17/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

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 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;

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; and

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

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The citizens' alliance for government  
32 accountability is established as a panel composed of six members as  
33 follows: (1) The governor or the governor's designee; (2) the state  
34 auditor or the state auditor's designee; and (3) four citizen members,  
35 one of which is appointed by the leader of each of the two major party  
36 caucuses of the house of representatives and the senate. The members  
37 of the alliance shall select a chair from one of the four citizen  
38 members. The alliance shall appoint task forces as needed that reflect

1 the state's economic, social, ethnic, and political diversity,  
2 including private sector, for-profit, corporate chief executive  
3 officers, private sector, nonprofit organization chief executives,  
4 state employees, representatives of a labor organization, management  
5 experts, managers or administrators from county or city government, and  
6 the general citizenry.

7 Volunteers shall be sought to participate. The alliance may create  
8 subcommittees and advisory panels to assist in its deliberations and  
9 may contract for specialized expertise.

10 The alliance may solicit charitable gifts, grants, and donations  
11 that are placed into the citizens' alliance for government  
12 accountability account and used to offset general fund moneys  
13 appropriated for such purposes.

14 All members of the alliance shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
15 incurred in the performance of duties of the alliance in accordance  
16 with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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

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

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The alliance shall convene summit  
33 conferences as needed throughout the state and shall actively solicit  
34 participation by state employees, management experts, and the general  
35 citizenry.

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

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

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

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

- 10        (1) Section 1 of this act;  
11        (2) Section 2 of this act;  
12        (3) Section 3 of this act;  
13        (4) Section 4 of this act;  
14        (5) Section 5 of this act; and  
15        (6) Section 10 of this act.

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

18        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or  
19 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
20 year ending June 30, 2002, 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. 10.** 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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