
HOUSE BILL 2717

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Sullivan, Simpson, G., Nixon, Anderson and Chase

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to government accountability; adding new sections
2 to chapter 43.09 RCW; creating a new section; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance of
6 public confidence in government. It further recognizes public
7 confidence will be enhanced through more efficient and effective
8 management and operation of state agencies and programs. Therefore,
9 the legislature intends to provide greater accountability to the public
10 through an independent performance audit of government agencies. The
11 legislature finds that performance audit findings may include the
12 identification of potential cost savings and ways to improve service
13 delivery.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.09 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) The state auditor shall contract for a performance audit of the
17 executive branch of state government.

1 (2) The performance audit shall include an examination of the
2 efficiency and effectiveness of major management policies, practices,
3 and functions across all executive branch agencies. The audit shall be
4 done in accordance with generally accepted government auditing
5 standards. The performance audit of executive branch agencies may
6 encompass entire departments, agencies, or institutions, or similar
7 programs in several departments. The audit shall include, but not be
8 limited to, the following:

9 (a) Planning, budgeting, and program evaluation policies and
10 practices;

11 (b) Personnel systems operations and management;

12 (c) State purchasing operations and management policies and
13 practices;

14 (d) Information processing and telecommunications systems policy,
15 organization, and management; and

16 (e) Organizational and staffing patterns, especially in terms of
17 the ratio of managers and supervisors to nonmanagement personnel.

18 (3) Audit staff shall have access to any state agency records,
19 data, and other information deemed necessary to carry out the audit.
20 State agencies shall provide the requested information at no cost and
21 in a timely manner.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.09 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) The state auditor shall report the results of the audit to the
25 legislature by September 1, 2005. Findings and recommendations, to the
26 extent practicable, shall be quantified in terms of cost and benefit.
27 The report shall also include identification of and recommendations for
28 best practices.

29 (2) State agencies shall have ninety days to respond to the
30 legislature regarding the findings and recommendations of the audit.
31 In their report, state agencies shall identify actions planned to
32 implement audit findings and recommendations as well as a timeline for
33 implementation.

34 (3) The legislature shall establish a joint committee on government
35 reform. The joint committee shall include the chairs and ranking
36 members of the house of representatives committees on state government
37 and appropriations, and the senate committees on government operations

1 and elections and ways and means. Senate committee services and the
2 office of program research shall staff the committee. The committee
3 shall:

4 (a) Hold four public hearings in different geographic areas across
5 the state to receive public input regarding the audit;

6 (b) Develop legislation, as appropriate, based on the findings and
7 recommendations of the audit and public comment.

8 (c) Terminate December 31, 2006.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.09 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 In addition to the authority given the state auditor in RCW
12 43.88.160(6), the state auditor may contract for and oversee
13 performance audits under section 2 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of five million dollars, or as much
15 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
16 June 30, 2005, from the general fund to the state auditor to carry out
17 the purposes of this act.

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