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HOUSE BILL 2230

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Orcutt, Holmquist, Tom, Hinkle, Dunn and Talcott

Read first time 02/24/2005. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a joint select committee to study  
2 improvements to the electronic benefit transfer system; creating a new  
3 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) A joint select committee on the study of  
6 improvements to the electronic benefits transfer system is established.  
7 The joint select committee shall consist of the following members:

8            (a) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the  
9 senate, appointed by the president of the senate; and

10           (b) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
11 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
12 representatives.

13           (2) The joint select committee shall review the following issues:

14           (a) Identify alternatives to the current procedure which permits  
15 public assistance recipients to receive cash back through the  
16 electronic benefit transfer system for the purpose of providing more  
17 accountability for the use of public funds;

18           (b) Examine the feasibility, logistical considerations, and costs

1 associated with alternatives to the current procedure as identified in  
2 (a) of this subsection; and

3 (c) Identify methods and procedures for monitoring and oversight to  
4 reduce the inappropriate use of public funds.

5 (3) The joint select committee, where feasible, may consult with  
6 individuals from the public and private sector or ask such persons to  
7 establish an advisory committee, including the department of social and  
8 health services.

9 (4)(a) The joint select committee shall use legislative facilities,  
10 and staff support shall be provided by the house of representatives  
11 office of program research. The joint select committee may hire  
12 additional staff with specific technical expertise if such expertise is  
13 necessary to carry out the mandates of this study.

14 (b) Legislative members of the joint select committee shall be  
15 reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.  
16 Nonlegislative members, except those representing an employer or  
17 organization, are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in  
18 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, such reimbursement to be  
19 paid jointly by the senate and the house of representatives.

20 (5) The joint select committee shall report its findings and  
21 recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2005.

22 (6) This section expires July 1, 2006.

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