
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2495

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability (originally sponsored by Representatives Kilmer, Holmquist, Green, Miloscia, Buri, Nixon, Rodne, Hudgins, P. Sullivan, Springer, Haler, Morrell, Morris, Ericks, B. Sullivan, Simpson and Upthegrove)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a state government efficiency
2 hotline; and adding a new section to chapter 43.09 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.09 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Within existing funds, the state auditor must establish a toll-
7 free telephone line that is available to public employees and members
8 of the public to recommend measures to improve efficiency in state
9 government and to report waste, inefficiency, or abuse by state
10 agencies, state employees, or persons under contract with state
11 agencies.

12 (2) The state auditor must prepare information that explains the
13 purpose of the hotline, and the hotline telephone number must be
14 prominently displayed in the information. Hotline information must be
15 posted in all state offices in locations where it is most likely to be
16 seen by the public. The state auditor must publicize the availability
17 of the toll-free hotline through print and electronic media.

18 (3) The state auditor must designate staff to be responsible for
19 processing recommendations for improving efficiency and reports of

1 waste, inefficiency, or abuse received through the hotline. The state
2 auditor must conduct an initial review of each recommendation for
3 efficiency and report of waste, inefficiency, or abuse made by public
4 employees and members of the public. Following the initial review, the
5 state auditor must determine which reports require further
6 investigation and assign the investigation to qualified staff.

7 (4) The identity of a person making a report through the hotline,
8 or by e-mail through the state auditor's web site, is confidential at
9 all times unless the person making a report consents to disclosure by
10 written waiver, or until the investigation described in subsection (3)
11 of this section is complete. All documents related to the report and
12 subsequent investigation are also confidential until completion of the
13 investigation.

14 (5) The state auditor must prepare a written determination of the
15 results of the investigation performed, including any background
16 information that the auditor deems necessary. The state auditor must
17 report publicly the conclusions of each investigation and recommend
18 ways to correct any deficiency and to improve efficiency. The reports
19 must be distributed to the affected state agencies.

20 (6) The state auditor must provide an annual overview and update of
21 hotline investigations, including the results and efficiencies
22 achieved, to the legislature and to the appropriate legislative
23 committees.

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