
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5119

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Parlette, Roach, Mulliken, Honeyford, Johnson, Carrell, Stevens, Oke, Deccio, Schoesler and Berkey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a review of the local government
2 whistleblower program; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there has been no
5 review of the local government whistleblower act, chapter 42.41 RCW,
6 since its adoption in 1992. By examining a sample of local government
7 whistleblower programs for their effectiveness in fulfilling the policy
8 and intent of the act, the legislature intends to determine whether
9 changes to the act are needed or further review is warranted.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The joint legislative audit and review
11 committee shall review a sample of local government whistleblower
12 programs. The committee, in its review, shall consider, but not be
13 limited to, the following factors: The effectiveness of local
14 reporting policies and investigation procedures including the officers
15 responsible for investigations; the role county prosecutors play in
16 employee whistleblower investigations; internal conflicts of interest
17 within the local government agency that may prevent robust
18 investigation of reports of improper governmental action; employee

1 awareness of the whistleblower program; employee confidence in program
2 performance; the effectiveness of the retaliatory action complaint
3 process; and the feasibility of providing an independent party to
4 receive the report of improper governmental action and/or conduct the
5 investigation. The committee shall make recommendations regarding
6 improvements to better facilitate the reporting and investigation of
7 improper governmental action in local governments. The committee shall
8 provide a final report on this review by December 1, 2006.

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