

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6818

As Reported by House Committee On:
Appropriations

Title: An act relating to transparency in state expenditures.

Brief Description: Promoting transparency in state expenditures.

Sponsors: Senators Oemig, Brandland, Tom, Zarelli, Kastama, Weinstein, Kilmer, Keiser and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 2/26/08, 2/28/08 [DPA].

Brief Summary of Bill
(As Amended by House Committee)

- Requires a public website on state expenditure information by January 1, 2009.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 33 members: Representatives Sommers, Chair; Dunshee, Vice Chair; Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Haler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Ericks, Fromhold, Grant, Green, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kretz, Linville, McDonald, McIntire, Morrell, Pettigrew, Priest, Ross, Schmick, Schual-Berke, Seaquist and Sullivan.

Staff: Charlie Gavigan (786-7340).

Background:

Under the State Budget and Accounting Act, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) maintains a comprehensive financial accounting and reporting system for all agencies of state government. This system accounts for all state agency revenues, expenditures, receipts, and disbursements, as well as statewide budget information. The Legislative Evaluation and

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Accountability Program (LEAP) Committee provides a variety of fiscal information for the Legislature and the public.

Summary of Amended Bill:

By January 1, 2009, the LEAP Committee, in collaboration with the OFM, is directed to make publicly available a searchable state expenditure information website. The website must contain information on: (1) state expenditures by fund or account; (2) expenditures by agency, program, and subprogram; (3) state revenues by source; (4) state expenditures by budget object and subobject; and (5) state agency workloads, caseloads, and performance measurements. The website must provide current and historical information.

The LEAP Committee must prepare and post on a public website, a presentation specific to K-12 education funding. The presentation will show examples of the type and level of educational programs and services supported by funding appropriated in the budget for the support of common schools. In addition, the website must contain a link to an OFM website on personal services and purchased services contracts required to be filed with the OFM.

Amended Bill Compared to Original Bill:

In collaboration with the OFM, and using existing database structures currently shared, the LEAP Committee is to establish and make available to the public, a searchable state expenditure information website, rather than the OFM. The OFM must make its electronic database on personal services and purchased services contracts public, and the LEAP state expenditure information website must contain a link to the OFM database. A provision was added requiring the LEAP Committee to prepare and post on the website a presentation on K-12 funding.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) State expenditure information should be made more accessible and understandable to the public through the Internet. Public websites to increase budget transparency are being created in many states and can be done economically. The LEAP is doing much of this now and can provide this website at little or no additional cost.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Amber Gunn and Bob Williams, Evergreen Freedom Foundation; Tom Jensen, Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program; and Jason Mercier, Washington Policy Center.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.