

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2311

As Reported by House Committee On:
State Government & Tribal Affairs

Title: An act relating to performance audits.

Brief Description: Removing the performance audits provision.

Sponsors: Representative Hunter.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Affairs: 2/27/07 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee audit of the Citizen Advisory Board's performance audit program.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Appleton, Vice Chair; Chandler, Ranking Minority Member; Armstrong, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Green, Kretz, McDermott, Miloscia and Ormsby.

Staff: Colleen Kerr (786-7168).

Background:

The Legislature created the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) in 2005 to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of state government. The CAB's mandate was to work in concert with the State Auditor (Auditor) and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) regarding performance audits of state government. The CAB was to establish the criteria for performance audits; the Auditor would then contract out for the actual work of performance auditing. The JLARC's work plan would take precedence over performance audit work plans developed by the CAB and the Auditor. Part of the enacting legislation also required the JLARC to conduct an audit of the performance audit program as developed between the CAB and the Auditor.

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.

In 2005, Initiative 900 was also voted into law. Initiative 900 authorized the Auditor to independently conduct comprehensive performance audits of all levels of Washington government. As a result, the Auditor is not required to work with the CAB or to use the CAB's criteria for a program of performance audits. Consequently, CAB has not developed a performance audit program.

Summary of Bill:

The requirement that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee perform an audit of the joint performance audit program developed between the Citizen Advisory Board and the State Auditor is removed from statute.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The JLARC should not be required to conduct performance audits on things that have not happened. Should the JLARC be required to go through that exercise, it would be an \$86,000 loss to the state. The JLARC would like to be relieved of this responsibility.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Hunter, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.