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HOUSE BILL 2257

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Curtis, Moeller, Takko, Ross, Anderson, Skinner, Armstrong, Orcutt, Eddy, Williams, Dunn and Ormsby

Read first time 02/15/2007.                      Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1            AN ACT Relating to public legislative hearings for fiscal audits of  
2 the department of social and health services; and adding a new chapter  
3 to Title 44 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
6 department of social and health services is the largest agency in state  
7 government and that it provides some of the most essential public  
8 services to the most vulnerable segments of society; that it  
9 distributes significant amounts of federal and state dollars and  
10 administers numerous federal and state programs; that successfully  
11 managing these dollars and services is a task of great complexity; and  
12 the fiscal performance of an agency necessarily both dictates and  
13 reflects overall policy.

14            (2) In order for the legislature to deliberate the fiscal  
15 performance processes of the department of social and health services,  
16 and allow the public the opportunity to comment, there is created in  
17 the legislature a joint committee for audit review of the department of  
18 social and health services.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The executive committee of the joint  
2 committee for audit review of the department of social and health  
3 services shall consist of the chairs and ranking members of the house  
4 of representatives appropriations committee, the senate ways and means  
5 committee, and the chairs and ranking members of the relevant house of  
6 representatives and senate health services committees, or successor  
7 committees. The chairs of the house of representatives appropriations  
8 committee and the senate ways and means committee shall serve as  
9 cochairs. All members of the house of representatives appropriations  
10 committee, the senate ways and means committee, and the house of  
11 representatives and senate health services committees are eligible for  
12 membership in the joint committee, and shall serve when appointed by  
13 the executive committee. The executive committee shall adopt rules and  
14 procedures for its operations.

15        (2) The joint committee for audit review of the department of  
16 social and health services shall meet at least once each interim,  
17 within at least four months of the commencement of the legislative  
18 session, to hold a public hearing on the state auditor's annual audit  
19 of the department of social and health services and the audit  
20 resolution report by the office of financial management.

21        (3) Membership of the joint committee may vary depending on the  
22 scope of the state auditor's annual audit.

23        (4) The joint committee for audit review may make recommendations  
24 for action on audit findings, or recommend further fiscal or  
25 performance audits to the state auditor or the joint legislative audit  
26 review committee.

27        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) The members of the joint committee for  
28 audit review of the department of social and health services will  
29 receive allowances while attending meetings of the committee or  
30 subcommittee and while engaged in other authorized business of the  
31 committee as provided in RCW 44.04.120. Subject to RCW 44.04.260, all  
32 expenses incurred by the committee must be paid upon voucher forms as  
33 provided by the office of financial management and signed by the  
34 cochairs of the joint committee, or their authorized designees, and the  
35 authority of the chair or vice-chair to sign vouchers continues until  
36 their successors are selected. Vouchers may be drawn upon funds  
37 appropriated for the expenses of the committee.

1           (2) The expenses of the committee must be paid jointly by the  
2 senate and the house of representatives. Committee expenditures are  
3 subject to approval by the house of representatives executive rules  
4 committee and the senate facilities and operations committee, or their  
5 successor committees.

6           (3) Staff support for the joint committee for audit review of the  
7 department of social and health services must be provided by the house  
8 or representatives office of program research and the senate committee  
9 services.

10           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute  
11 a new chapter in Title 44 RCW.

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