
SENATE BILL 6527

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senator Benton

Read first time 01/27/12. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to cellular telephone use by state employees;
2 amending RCW 43.88.160; and adding new sections to chapter 43.41A 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 43.41A RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The office of the chief information officer shall contract with
7 a private optimization specialist to develop a strategy to match the
8 state's actual cellular telephone usage with the most cost-effective
9 delivery of those services. The office shall assist state agencies in
10 developing and implementing agency-wide cellular telephone use
11 policies.

12 (2) In developing strategies, the chief information officer shall
13 consider all possible cost savings measures, including the following:

14 (a) Providing employees with a flat rate reimbursement for the use
15 of their personal cellular telephones;

16 (b) Utilizing prepaid cellular telephone plans;

17 (c) Removing underutilized cellular telephones from service; and

18 (d) Limiting the use of cellular telephones to employees that use
19 cellular telephones as an integral part of their jobs.

1 (3) The office of the chief information officer shall report to the
2 appropriate committees of the legislature on the findings and
3 recommendations of the optimization specialist, the progress made in
4 developing a statewide policy on cellular telephone use, the
5 implementation timeline of any new cellular telephone use policy, the
6 cost savings that have occurred or will occur as a result of any new
7 policy, and recommendations for legislation that will promote reduced
8 use or more efficient use of cellular telephones within state
9 government.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41A RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) No state agency or department may issue cellular telephones to
13 any state employee, other than an elected official, unless one of the
14 following apply:

15 (a) The employee is the head of a department or agency and the use
16 of a cellular telephone is necessary for the effective execution of his
17 or her duties;

18 (b) The employee is a director within a department or agency and
19 the use of a cellular telephone is necessary for the effective
20 execution of his or her duties; or

21 (c) Due to the nature of the employee's work environment, the use
22 of a cellular telephone is integral to the safety of the employee in
23 the execution of his or her duties.

24 (2) To the extent that it is financially beneficial, all state
25 agencies shall utilize prepaid cellular telephone services. This
26 subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the use of other types of
27 cellular telephone service contracts if those contracts are determined
28 to have a greater financial benefit to the state.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88.160 and 2006 c 1 s 6 are each amended to read as
30 follows:

31 This section sets forth the major fiscal duties and
32 responsibilities of officers and agencies of the executive branch. The
33 regulations issued by the governor pursuant to this chapter shall
34 provide for a comprehensive, orderly basis for fiscal management and
35 control, including efficient accounting and reporting therefor, for the

1 executive branch of the state government and may include, in addition,
2 such requirements as will generally promote more efficient public
3 management in the state.

4 (1) Governor; director of financial management. The governor,
5 through the director of financial management, shall devise and
6 supervise a modern and complete accounting system for each agency to
7 the end that all revenues, expenditures, receipts, disbursements,
8 resources, and obligations of the state shall be properly and
9 systematically accounted for. The accounting system shall include the
10 development of accurate, timely records and reports of all financial
11 affairs of the state. The system shall also provide for central
12 accounts in the office of financial management at the level of detail
13 deemed necessary by the director to perform central financial
14 management. The director of financial management shall adopt and
15 periodically update an accounting procedures manual. Any agency
16 maintaining its own accounting and reporting system shall comply with
17 the updated accounting procedures manual and the rules of the director
18 adopted under this chapter. An agency may receive a waiver from
19 complying with this requirement if the waiver is approved by the
20 director. Waivers expire at the end of the fiscal biennium for which
21 they are granted. The director shall forward notice of waivers granted
22 to the appropriate legislative fiscal committees. The director of
23 financial management may require such financial, statistical, and other
24 reports as the director deems necessary from all agencies covering any
25 period.

26 (2) Except as provided in chapter 43.88C RCW, the director of
27 financial management is responsible for quarterly reporting of primary
28 operating budget drivers such as applicable workloads, caseload
29 estimates, and appropriate unit cost data. These reports shall be
30 transmitted to the legislative fiscal committees or by electronic means
31 to the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee.
32 Quarterly reports shall include actual monthly data and the variance
33 between actual and estimated data to date. The reports shall also
34 include estimates of these items for the remainder of the budget
35 period.

36 (3) The director of financial management shall report at least
37 annually to the appropriate legislative committees regarding the status
38 of all appropriated capital projects, including transportation

1 projects, showing significant cost overruns or underruns. If funds are
2 shifted from one project to another, the office of financial management
3 shall also reflect this in the annual variance report. Once a project
4 is complete, the report shall provide a final summary showing estimated
5 start and completion dates of each project phase compared to actual
6 dates, estimated costs of each project phase compared to actual costs,
7 and whether or not there are any outstanding liabilities or unsettled
8 claims at the time of completion.

9 (4) In addition, the director of financial management, as agent of
10 the governor, shall:

11 (a) Develop and maintain a system of internal controls and internal
12 audits comprising methods and procedures to be adopted by each agency
13 that will safeguard its assets, check the accuracy and reliability of
14 its accounting data, promote operational efficiency, and encourage
15 adherence to prescribed managerial policies for accounting and
16 financial controls. The system developed by the director shall include
17 criteria for determining the scope and comprehensiveness of internal
18 controls required by classes of agencies, depending on the level of
19 resources at risk.

20 Each agency head or authorized designee shall be assigned the
21 responsibility and authority for establishing and maintaining internal
22 audits following the standards of internal auditing of the institute of
23 internal auditors;

24 (b) Make surveys and analyses of agencies with the object of
25 determining better methods and increased effectiveness in the use of
26 manpower and materials; and the director shall authorize expenditures
27 for employee training to the end that the state may benefit from
28 training facilities made available to state employees;

29 (c) Establish policies for allowing the contracting of child care
30 services;

31 (d) Report to the governor with regard to duplication of effort or
32 lack of coordination among agencies;

33 (e) Review any pay and classification plans, and changes
34 thereunder, developed by any agency for their fiscal impact: PROVIDED,
35 That none of the provisions of this subsection shall affect merit
36 systems of personnel management now existing or hereafter established
37 by statute relating to the fixing of qualifications requirements for
38 recruitment, appointment, or promotion of employees of any agency. The

1 director shall advise and confer with agencies including appropriate
2 standing committees of the legislature as may be designated by the
3 speaker of the house and the president of the senate regarding the
4 fiscal impact of such plans and may amend or alter the plans, except
5 that for the following agencies no amendment or alteration of the plans
6 may be made without the approval of the agency concerned: Agencies
7 headed by elective officials;

8 (f) Fix the number and classes of positions or authorized employee
9 years of employment for each agency and during the fiscal period amend
10 the determinations previously fixed by the director except that the
11 director shall not be empowered to fix the number or the classes for
12 the following: Agencies headed by elective officials;

13 (g) Adopt rules to effectuate provisions contained in (a) through
14 (f) of this subsection.

15 (5) The treasurer shall:

16 (a) Receive, keep, and disburse all public funds of the state not
17 expressly required by law to be received, kept, and disbursed by some
18 other persons: PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not apply to those
19 public funds of the institutions of higher learning which are not
20 subject to appropriation;

21 (b) Receive, disburse, or transfer public funds under the
22 treasurer's supervision or custody;

23 (c) Keep a correct and current account of all moneys received and
24 disbursed by the treasurer, classified by fund or account;

25 (d) Coordinate agencies' acceptance and use of credit cards and
26 other payment methods, if the agencies have received authorization
27 under RCW 43.41.180;

28 (e) Perform such other duties as may be required by law or by
29 regulations issued pursuant to this law.

30 It shall be unlawful for the treasurer to disburse public funds in
31 the treasury except upon forms or by alternative means duly prescribed
32 by the director of financial management. These forms or alternative
33 means shall provide for authentication and certification by the agency
34 head or the agency head's designee that the services have been rendered
35 or the materials have been furnished; or, in the case of loans or
36 grants, that the loans or grants are authorized by law; or, in the case
37 of payments for periodic maintenance services to be performed on state
38 owned equipment, that a written contract for such periodic maintenance

1 services is currently in effect; and the treasurer shall not be liable
2 under the treasurer's surety bond for erroneous or improper payments so
3 made. Notwithstanding this subsection, payments may be disbursed for
4 prepaid cellular telephone services, if the purchase of the prepaid
5 cellular telephone services is part of a strategy to contain the cost
6 related to the use of cellular telephones within any agency or
7 department. When services are lawfully paid for in advance of full
8 performance by any private individual or business entity other than
9 equipment maintenance providers or as provided for by RCW 42.24.035,
10 such individual or entity other than central stores rendering such
11 services shall make a cash deposit or furnish surety bond coverage to
12 the state as shall be fixed in an amount by law, or if not fixed by
13 law, then in such amounts as shall be fixed by the director of the
14 department of (~~general administration~~) enterprise services but in no
15 case shall such required cash deposit or surety bond be less than an
16 amount which will fully indemnify the state against any and all losses
17 on account of breach of promise to fully perform such services. No
18 payments shall be made in advance for any equipment maintenance
19 services to be performed more than twelve months after such payment.
20 Any such bond so furnished shall be conditioned that the person, firm
21 or corporation receiving the advance payment will apply it toward
22 performance of the contract. The responsibility for recovery of
23 erroneous or improper payments made under this section shall lie with
24 the agency head or the agency head's designee in accordance with
25 regulations issued pursuant to this chapter. Nothing in this section
26 shall be construed to permit a public body to advance funds to a
27 private service provider pursuant to a grant or loan before services
28 have been rendered or material furnished.

29 (6) The state auditor shall:

30 (a) Report to the legislature the results of current post audits
31 that have been made of the financial transactions of each agency; to
32 this end the auditor may, in the auditor's discretion, examine the
33 books and accounts of any agency, official, or employee charged with
34 the receipt, custody, or safekeeping of public funds. Where feasible
35 in conducting examinations, the auditor shall utilize data and findings
36 from the internal control system prescribed by the office of financial
37 management. The current post audit of each agency may include a

1 section on recommendations to the legislature as provided in (c) of
2 this subsection.

3 (b) Give information to the legislature, whenever required, upon
4 any subject relating to the financial affairs of the state.

5 (c) Make the auditor's official report on or before the thirty-
6 first of December which precedes the meeting of the legislature. The
7 report shall be for the last complete fiscal period and shall include
8 determinations as to whether agencies, in making expenditures, complied
9 with the laws of this state. The state auditor is authorized to
10 perform or participate in performance verifications and performance
11 audits as expressly authorized by the legislature in the omnibus
12 biennial appropriations acts or in the performance audit work plan
13 approved by the joint legislative audit and review committee. The
14 state auditor, upon completing an audit for legal and financial
15 compliance under chapter 43.09 RCW or a performance verification, may
16 report to the joint legislative audit and review committee or other
17 appropriate committees of the legislature, in a manner prescribed by
18 the joint legislative audit and review committee, on facts relating to
19 the management or performance of governmental programs where such facts
20 are discovered incidental to the legal and financial audit or
21 performance verification. The auditor may make such a report to a
22 legislative committee only if the auditor has determined that the
23 agency has been given an opportunity and has failed to resolve the
24 management or performance issues raised by the auditor. If the auditor
25 makes a report to a legislative committee, the agency may submit to the
26 committee a response to the report. This subsection (6) shall not be
27 construed to authorize the auditor to allocate other than de minimis
28 resources to performance audits except as expressly authorized in the
29 appropriations acts or in the performance audit work plan. The results
30 of a performance audit conducted by the state auditor that has been
31 requested by the joint legislative audit and review committee must only
32 be transmitted to the joint legislative audit and review committee.

33 (d) Be empowered to take exception to specific expenditures that
34 have been incurred by any agency or to take exception to other
35 practices related in any way to the agency's financial transactions and
36 to cause such exceptions to be made a matter of public record,
37 including disclosure to the agency concerned and to the director of
38 financial management. It shall be the duty of the director of

1 financial management to cause corrective action to be taken within six
2 months, such action to include, as appropriate, the withholding of
3 funds as provided in RCW 43.88.110. The director of financial
4 management shall annually report by December 31st the status of audit
5 resolution to the appropriate committees of the legislature, the state
6 auditor, and the attorney general. The director of financial
7 management shall include in the audit resolution report actions taken
8 as a result of an audit including, but not limited to, types of
9 personnel actions, costs and types of litigation, and value of recouped
10 goods or services.

11 (e) Promptly report any irregularities to the attorney general.

12 (f) Investigate improper governmental activity under chapter 42.40
13 RCW.

14 (~~(g)~~) In addition to the authority given to the state auditor in
15 this subsection (6), the state auditor is authorized to conduct
16 performance audits identified in RCW 43.09.470. Nothing in this
17 subsection (6) shall limit, impede, or restrict the state auditor from
18 conducting performance audits identified in RCW 43.09.470.

19 (7) The joint legislative audit and review committee may:

20 (a) Make post audits of the financial transactions of any agency
21 and management surveys and program reviews as provided for in chapter
22 44.28 RCW as well as performance audits and program evaluations. To
23 this end the joint committee may in its discretion examine the books,
24 accounts, and other records of any agency, official, or employee.

25 (b) Give information to the legislature or any legislative
26 committee whenever required upon any subject relating to the
27 performance and management of state agencies.

28 (c) Make a report to the legislature which shall include at least
29 the following:

30 (i) Determinations as to the extent to which agencies in making
31 expenditures have complied with the will of the legislature and in this
32 connection, may take exception to specific expenditures or financial
33 practices of any agencies; and

34 (ii) Such plans as it deems expedient for the support of the
35 state's credit, for lessening expenditures, for promoting frugality and
36 economy in agency affairs, and generally for an improved level of

1 fiscal management.

--- END ---