HB 2883

Brief Description: Addressing government efficiency by eliminating or revising the requirements for state agency reports.

Sponsors: Representatives Senn, Chandler and Ormsby; by request of Office of Financial Management.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates and reduces the frequency of various reports by state agencies to the Governor and Legislature. Some inter-agency reports are also reduced in frequency or eliminated.

- Removes the requirement for the Office of Financial Management to act as a clearinghouse for information related to state boards, commissions, and similar bodies.

Hearing Date: 2/3/16

Staff: Dawn Eychaner (786-7135).

Background:

Agencies, boards, task forces, and other bodies are regularly required to report activities and findings to the Governor and Legislature. While some reports are one-time, others are ongoing on an annual or biennial basis. All reports to the Governor and Legislature must be submitted electronically and be accessible to the public.

In 1977, the Legislature established a requirement for the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to serve as a central clearinghouse for information on boards, commissions, and similar entities in order to provide greater oversight and accountability. The OFM compiles, and reports biennially, information to the Legislature for groups whose members are eligible to receive travel expenses for their meetings.

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.

Summary of Bill:

Nine reports to the Legislature are eliminated. Four reports to the Legislature are reduced in frequency. Four inter-agency reports are eliminated or reduced in frequency.

Apprenticeship and Training Council (Council).
The frequency of the Council's report to the Governor and Legislature on opportunities for high school students to transition to local apprenticeship programs is changed from annual to only reporting in years in which grants are awarded.

Department of Corrections (DOC).
The DOC annual report to the Legislature on the number of health care visits made by offenders and the associated costs is eliminated.

Department of Health (DOH).
The DOH provides hospitals the opportunity to anonymously evaluate state survey or audit processes. The annual compilation of these evaluations in a report to the Legislature is eliminated.

Department of Labor and Industries (L&I).
The L&I annual report to the Legislature on contractors who have failed to register, contractors assessed monetary penalties, and penalties collected and waived, is eliminated.

The L&I annual report to the Governor and Legislature on business transacted by the department in the preceding fiscal year is eliminated.

Department of Licensing (DOL).
The DOL annual report to the Legislature on agent and subagent fees, fee revision recommendations, and other related information is eliminated.

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).
The DSHS annual report to the Legislature on blended funding services provided to children is eliminated.

Employment Security Department (ESD).
The ESD annual report to the Legislature on the status of the training benefits program and resulting outcomes is changed from annual to once every five years.

Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA).
The ORIA biennial report to the Governor and Legislature on the effects of certain rulemaking requirements by certain agencies on the regulatory systems in the state is eliminated.

Invasive Species Council (ISC).
The ISC annual report on activities to the Governor and Legislature, including an evaluation of progress made in the preceding year to implement the strategic plan and identifying projects from the plan that will be a focus for the following year, is changed to a biennial report.

Office of Financial Management (OFM).

The OFM requirements to act as a central clearinghouse for information on boards, commissions, councils, and committees; to collect related information from state agencies; and to report to the Legislature biennially on groups whose members are eligible to receive travel expenses, are eliminated.

Salmon Recovery Board (SRB).
The SRB requirement to provide an annual list to the Legislature of proposed projects and projects funded is changed to require the list be incorporated into the SRB's biennial report.

Washington State Patrol (WSP).
The requirement for the WSP to provide the DOL with a cross-reference record of accidents related to individuals who have driving infractions and convictions, including whether the accident resulted in a fatality, is eliminated.

The requirement for the WSP to collect, and report semiannually to the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC), demographic data related to routine traffic stops is eliminated. The requirement for the CJTC and the WSP to continue to compile this information and report to the legislature is unchanged.

Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA).
The requirements for the WSSDA to contract with the OFM to audit WSSDA staff classifications and salaries and associate reports to the OFM and Legislature are eliminated.

Public Institutions of Higher Education.
The requirement for public institutions of higher education to notify the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) when an institution exercises its independent purchasing authority is eliminated.

State Agencies Using Biodiesel.
The frequency of state agencies' reporting to the DES documenting the use of biodiesel fuel is changed from biannual to annual.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 28, 2016.

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