

HOUSE BILL REPORT

EHB 1927

As Passed House:
March 6, 2017

Title: An act relating to government efficiency by eliminating, revising or decodifying obsolete or inactive statutory provisions that concern the office of financial management.

Brief Description: Concerning government efficiency by eliminating, revising or decodifying obsolete or inactive statutory provisions that concern the office of financial management.

Sponsors: Representative Hudgins; by request of Office of Financial Management.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government, Elections & Information Technology: 2/14/17, 2/15/17 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/6/17, 98-0.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill

- Removes from statute various obsolete or otherwise inactive statutory provisions related to the Office of Financial Management oversight authority.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Hudgins, Chair; Dolan, Vice Chair; Koster, Ranking Minority Member; Volz, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Gregerson, Irwin, Kraft and Pellicciotti.

Staff: Sean Flynn (786-7124).

Background:

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) was created in 1979, as a division of the Office of the Governor, to integrate the short- and long-term planning and fiscal activities of state government. The OFM assumed the functions of prior offices related to central budgeting, state planning, and population and research management.

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.

Throughout its existence, the Legislature has assigned the OFM various statutory functions regarding oversight of agency budgeting and fiscal planning. For example, the OFM must approve any exceptions to the state travel expense limits for executive branch agencies. The State Treasurer's decision to delegate cash management responsibilities to agencies is subject to the OFM concurrence. The OFM is directed to adopt policies for how the Department of Financial Institutions may provide the extension of state credit to borrow funds from the financial market. The Office of the Governor, through the OFM, is directed to approve medical expense claims by military members injured in state service that have been submitted through the Military Department. Agencies must report to the OFM on expenses paid regarding court fees and other related costs.

In 1994 the Legislature directed the Office of the Governor to biennially report to the Legislature on recommendations for which state boards and commissions should be terminated or consolidated. In 1997 the Legislature directed the OFM to establish a taskforce to reduce unintended pregnancies.

In 2011 the Legislature directed the OFM to negotiate performance-based plans for each state university, and the four-year college, in determining the increase or decrease of each institution's tuition level.

Summary of Engrossed Bill:

Certain provisions of law are removed regarding OFM authority over various fiscal matters regarding specific agencies. The eliminated provisions of responsibility include the following:

- requiring concurrence regarding the State Treasurer's decision to delegate cash management responsibilities to agencies;
- adopting policies for how the Department of Financial Institutions may provide the extension of state credit to borrow funds from the financial market;
- reporting by agencies for expenses paid related to court fees;
- requiring negotiation of performance-based plans for state universities in regards to tuition levels; and
- establishing a workgroup on preventing unwanted pregnancies.

In conjunction with making recommendations on the elimination of state boards and commissions, the OFM must produce a list each year of all state boards and commissions, whose members are legible for travel reimbursement by the state.

In addition, the approval of medical claims for military members injured in state service must be approved by the Adjutant General, instead of the OFM. The authority over exceptions to the state travel expense limits for executive branch agencies must be approved by the head of the agency, instead of the OFM.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This clean-up bill simply eliminates reference to inoperable programs and helps streamline the OFM statutory functions.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Nathan Sherrard, Office of Financial Management.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.