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**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5513**

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**State of Washington**                      **60th Legislature**                      **2007 Regular Session**

**By**      Senators Kilmer, Holmquist, Hobbs, Marr, Oemig, Hatfield,  
McAuliffe and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/22/2007.      Referred to Committee on Economic  
Development, Trade & Management.

1            AN ACT Relating to establishing a state government efficiency  
2 hotline; and adding a new section to chapter 43.09 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 43.09 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) Within existing funds, the state auditor must establish a toll-  
7 free telephone line that is available to public employees and members  
8 of the public to recommend measures to improve efficiency in state and  
9 local government and to report waste, inefficiency, or abuse, as well  
10 as examples of efficiency or outstanding achievement, by state and  
11 local agencies, public employees, or persons under contract with state  
12 and local agencies.

13            (2) The state auditor must prepare information that explains the  
14 purpose of the hotline, and the hotline telephone number must be  
15 prominently displayed in the information. Hotline information must be  
16 posted in all government offices in locations where it is most likely  
17 to be seen by the public. The state auditor must publicize the  
18 availability of the toll-free hotline through print and electronic  
19 media and other means of communication with the public.

1 (3) The state auditor must designate staff to be responsible for  
2 processing recommendations for improving efficiency and reports of  
3 waste, inefficiency, or abuse received through the hotline. The state  
4 auditor must conduct an initial review of each recommendation for  
5 efficiency and report of waste, inefficiency, or abuse made by public  
6 employees and members of the public. Following the initial review, the  
7 state auditor must determine which assertions require further  
8 examination or audit under the auditor's current authority and must  
9 assign qualified staff.

10 (4) The identity of a person making a report through the hotline,  
11 by e-mail through the state auditor's web site, or other means of  
12 communication is confidential at all times unless the person making a  
13 report consents to disclosure by written waiver, or until the  
14 investigation described in subsection (3) of this section is complete.  
15 All documents related to the report and subsequent investigation are  
16 also confidential until completion of the investigation or audit or  
17 when the documents are otherwise statutorily exempt from public  
18 disclosure.

19 (5) The state auditor must prepare a written determination of the  
20 results of the investigation performed, including any background  
21 information that the auditor deems necessary. The state auditor must  
22 report publicly the conclusions of each investigation and recommend  
23 ways to correct any deficiency and to improve efficiency. The reports  
24 must be distributed to the affected state agencies.

25 (6) The state auditor must provide an annual overview and update of  
26 hotline investigations, including the results and efficiencies  
27 achieved, to the legislature and to the appropriate legislative  
28 committees.

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