

2 **SSB 6061** - S AMD - 414

3 By Senators Prince, Haugen, Wood, Rasmussen, Hale, Patterson and
4 Prentice

5 ADOPTED 4/16/97

6 On page 3, after line 31, insert the following:

7 **"NEW SECTION. Sec. 104. FOR THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND**
8 **REVIEW COMMITTEE**

9 Transportation Fund--State Appropriation \$ 514,000

10 (1) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct
11 a performance audit of the department of transportation focused on its
12 responsibilities for the highway and ferry systems. The performance
13 audit shall be an objective and systematic assessment of the programs
14 administered by the department, including each program's effectiveness,
15 efficiency, and accountability. The joint legislative audit and review
16 committee shall contract with independent evaluators as needed.

17 (2) Consistent with the procedures established in chapter 44.28
18 RCW, the committee shall, as appropriate, consult the department's
19 frontline employees, department and program managers, customers of the
20 department's programs and services, other taxpayers, legislators,
21 legislative staff, office of financial management staff, and other
22 external public and private sector experts as deemed appropriate in
23 conducting the performance audit. On behalf of the committee, the
24 independent evaluator shall be provided direct and unrestricted access
25 to information held by the department, which shall submit all data and
26 other information requested by the committee.

27 (3) The performance audit shall identify those activities and
28 programs of the department that should be strengthened, those that
29 should be abandoned, and those that need to be redirected or other
30 alternatives explored. In conducting the audit, the following
31 objectives shall be addressed as appropriate:

32 (a) Identify each of the department's discrete functions or
33 activities, along with associated costs and full-time equivalent staff;

34 (b) Determine the extent to which the particular activity or
35 function is specifically authorized in statute or is consistent with
36 statutory direction and intent;

1 (c) Establish the relative priority of the program among the
2 department's functions;

3 (d) Consider whether or not the purpose for which the program was
4 created is still valid based on the circumstances under which the
5 program was created versus those that exist at the time of the audit;

6 (e) Recommend organizations or programs in the public or private
7 sector to be used as benchmarks against which to measure the
8 performance of the program or function;

9 (f) Determine whether or not the program or function is achieving
10 the results for which it was established;

11 (g) Identify alternatives for delivering the program or service,
12 either in the public or private sector;

13 (h) Identify any duplication of services with other government
14 programs or private enterprises or gaps in services;

15 (i) Identify the costs or implications of not performing the
16 function;

17 (j) Determine the frequency with which other states perform similar
18 functions, as well as their relative funding levels and performance;

19 (k) In the event of inadequate performance by the program, identify
20 the potential for a workable, affordable plan to improve performance;

21 (l) Identify, to the extent possible, the causes of any program's
22 failure to achieve the desired results and identify alternatives for
23 reducing costs or improving service delivery, including transferring
24 functions to other public or private sector organizations; and

25 (m) Develop recommendations relating to statutes that inhibit or do
26 not contribute to the department's ability to perform its functions
27 effectively and efficiently and whether specific statutes, activities,
28 or programs should be continued, abandoned, or restructured.

29 (4) The performance audit shall be conducted under the procedures
30 established in chapter 44.28 RCW, including the preparation of
31 preliminary and final audit reports under RCW 44.28.088 and a follow-up
32 compliance report under RCW 44.28.091. The preliminary audit report
33 shall be completed by August 1, 1998, and the final audit report shall
34 be published by November 1, 1998.

35 (5) In conducting the performance audit, the joint legislative
36 audit and review committee shall work cooperatively with the
37 legislative transportation committee and its staff.

38 (6) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall create
39 a temporary advisory committee to assist the committee in conducting

1 this performance audit. The advisory committee shall assist the
2 committee in the following matters:

- 3 (a) Identifying stakeholders;
- 4 (b) Developing the audit scope and objectives;
- 5 (c) Reviewing progress reports provided by the joint legislative
6 audit and review committee;
- 7 (d) Reviewing preliminary and final audit reports; and
- 8 (e) Facilitating communication of audit findings to other members
9 of the legislature.

10 (7) The advisory committee shall be comprised of representatives of
11 the joint legislative audit and review committee, the legislative
12 transportation committee, and other stakeholders as determined by the
13 joint legislative audit and review committee.

14 (8) The advisory committee shall be chaired by the chair of the
15 joint legislative audit and review committee."

16 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
17 internal references accordingly.

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EFFECT: Provides an appropriation of \$514,000 to JLARC to conduct
a performance audit of the WSDOT.