
HOUSE BILL 1728

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville, Romero, Grant, Dickerson, Ogden, Costa, Blalock, Tokuda, Murray, Dunshee, Morris, Wood, Mason and Kessler

Read first time 02/06/97. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to incentives for state agencies to save money;
2 amending RCW 43.88.140; adding new sections to chapter 43.88 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that making government
6 more responsive and more efficient involves changes in the civil
7 service system, changes in the structure of the bureaucracy, and
8 changes in the budget system. The budget system does not provide a
9 vehicle to evaluate whether public money is being spent efficiently and
10 effectively. Allowing agencies to assist in identifying programs and
11 activities that can be eliminated will help set priorities for spending
12 on those activities that are most important to accomplishing agency
13 missions.

14 It is the intent of the legislature to provide an incentive for
15 identifying savings by allowing agencies to include in their
16 appropriations, sixty-five percent of the savings resulting from
17 elimination of programs and activities identified during the budget
18 development process. It is also the intent of the legislature to
19 encourage public confidence in government by providing incentives for

1 spending public money more efficiently and effectively. The legislature
2 recognizes that, in implementing programs, state employees can
3 accomplish more with less money if they are allowed flexibility in
4 achieving program objectives. The legislature also recognizes the need
5 for clear policy goals that can be achieved by agency managers and
6 employees. The combination of clear goals from the legislature and
7 flexibility in implementation with the measures to demonstrate success
8 in achieving the goals will result in better service to the public. The
9 legislature supports efforts to establish a better balance between
10 accountability for spending public money and flexibility in achieving
11 outcomes that result in greater confidence in government.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.88 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The innovation and efficiency fund is created in the custody
15 of the state treasurer. An account within the fund shall be
16 established for each state agency. An amount equal to sixty-five
17 percent of the difference between the amount appropriated to an agency
18 from general fund--state revenue in the omnibus appropriations act and
19 the amount actually expended by the agency from that source each fiscal
20 year shall be deposited into that agency's account within the fund.

21 (2) Only the director of the office of financial management or, as
22 he or she designates, the directors of each agency may authorize
23 expenditures from the fund. The amount in a particular agency's
24 account may be authorized for expenditure only for that agency.

25 (3) The fund is not subject to allotment under chapter 43.88 RCW,
26 and no appropriation is required for expenditures.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88.140 and 1981 c 270 s 9 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 Thirty-five percent of all appropriations made from general fund--
30 state revenue shall lapse at the end of the fiscal ((period)) year for
31 which the appropriations are made to the extent that they have not been
32 expended or lawfully obligated.

33 An amount equal to sixty-five percent of all appropriations made
34 from general fund--state revenue for a fiscal year, to the extent that
35 they have not been expended or lawfully obligated, shall be deposited
36 by the state treasurer into the efficiency savings account after the
37 end of the fiscal year for which the appropriations are made.

1 Any remaining appropriations shall lapse at the end of the fiscal
2 year for which the appropriations are made to the extent that they have
3 not been expended or lawfully obligated.

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 43.88 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 During development of budget proposals to the legislature, the
7 governor shall require recommendations from agencies of programs or
8 expenditure items that can be eliminated in the ensuing biennium while
9 maintaining the ability to achieve program objectives and measures
10 identified under RCW 43.88.090. Sixty-five percent of the savings that
11 results from elimination of a program or activity for the ensuing
12 biennium shall be included as part of the agency's budget proposal.
13 Any proposed budget reductions shall be credited against one hundred
14 percent of the savings identified under this section.

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