
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5633

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Strannigan, Long, Patterson and Benton)

Read first time 03/10/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to performance audit of the department of
2 transportation; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The joint legislative audit and review
5 committee shall conduct a performance audit of the department of
6 transportation focused on its responsibilities for the highway and
7 ferry systems. The performance audit shall be an objective and
8 systematic assessment of the programs administered by the department,
9 including each program's effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability.
10 The joint legislative audit and review committee shall contract with
11 independent evaluators as needed.

12 (2) In conducting the performance audit, the independent evaluator
13 shall involve the department's frontline employees, department and
14 program managers, customers of the department's programs and services,
15 other taxpayers, legislators, legislative staff, office of financial
16 management staff, and other external public and private sector experts
17 as deemed appropriate in conducting the performance audit. On behalf
18 of the independent evaluator, the joint legislative audit and review
19 committee shall be provided direct and unrestricted access to

1 information held by the department, which shall submit all data and
2 other information requested by the committee.

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

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

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

13 (c) Establish the relative priority of the program among the
14 department's functions;

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

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

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

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

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

27 (i) Identify the costs or implications of not performing the
28 function;

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

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

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

37 (m) Develop recommendations regarding statutes that inhibit or do
38 not contribute to the department's ability to perform its functions
39 effectively and efficiently;

1 (n) Evaluate the effectiveness of the department's governance and
2 the legislature's policy and fiscal oversight of the department; and

3 (o) Develop an advisory recommendation regarding whether the
4 department's programs or activities should be continued, abandoned, or
5 restructured.

6 (4) The performance audit shall be conducted under the procedures
7 established in chapter 44.28 RCW, including the preparation of
8 preliminary and final audit reports under RCW 44.28.088 and a follow-up
9 compliance report under RCW 44.28.091. The preliminary audit report
10 shall be completed by August 1, 1998, and the final audit report shall
11 be published by November 1, 1998.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
13 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
14 June 30, 1997, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
15 void.

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