

2195

Sponsor(s): Representatives Huff, Rockefeller, Clements, Lantz, Talcott, Carrell, Alexander and Wensman

Brief Title: Regulating public-private partnership agreements.

HB 2195 - DIGEST

Provides that the department and a private entity that is party to an agreement under chapter 47.46 RCW are subject to a periodic fiscal audit, after agreements entered into have been finalized, and annually after that. The audit must be conducted by an accounting firm selected by the state auditor and a panel of state legislators that includes the chairpersons and ranking minority members from each of the following committees: The house of representatives and senate transportation committees, the house of representatives appropriations committee, and the senate ways and means committee. A final report of the audit must be presented to the appropriate legislative standing committees at their next regularly scheduled meetings.

Directs the senate auditor to review and comment on the necessity and appropriateness of any toll increases proposed by the private entity and the department. If revenues from tolls are greater than initially forecast, the department shall establish procedures for public review of receipts generated every three years after completion of the project. The department shall also establish procedures to either lower the tolls or retire the bonds issued for the project earlier than originally provided.