
HOUSE BILL 2148

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Representatives McMorris, Romero and Woods

Read first time 02/19/2001. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to public accountability and the review of state
2 agency performance and outcome measures; amending RCW 44.28.071;
3 creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the use of
6 outcome and performance measures is necessary for demonstrating the
7 accountability of state government to the public. The legislature also
8 finds that performance measurement is integral to the efficient and
9 effective management and operation of state agencies and programs.
10 Thus, the legislature intends to increase the review of these measures
11 to provide greater accountability to the public and to ensure that
12 state government has effective systems for assessing performance.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review
14 committee, with the cooperation of the office of the state auditor,
15 shall conduct reviews of the performance and outcome measures of those
16 state agencies and programs identified in this section. In conducting
17 the reviews, the joint legislative audit and review committee and the
18 office of the state auditor shall work in cooperation with the office

1 of financial management and state agency personnel. During the 2001-03
2 biennium, the following reviews shall be undertaken and completed:

3 (a) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct
4 reviews of the division of alcohol and substance abuse and the
5 children's administration in the department of social and health
6 services, as well as the department of ecology.

7 (b) The office of the state auditor shall conduct reviews of the
8 department of licensing, the department of general administration, and
9 the department of revenue.

10 (2) Both the joint legislative audit and review committee and the
11 office of the state auditor shall develop a schedule and common
12 methodology for conducting these reviews. The reviews shall include,
13 but not be limited to, the following:

14 (a) Determine whether the performance and outcome measures are
15 consistent with legislative mandates, strategic plans, mission
16 statements, and goals and objectives;

17 (b) Examine how agency management uses the measures to manage
18 resources in an efficient and effective manner;

19 (c) Assess how performance benchmarks are established for the
20 purpose of assessing overall performance compared to external standards
21 and benchmarks;

22 (d) Examine how an analysis of the measurement data is used to make
23 planning and operational improvements;

24 (e) Determine how performance and outcome measures are used in the
25 budget planning, development, and allotment processes;

26 (f) Review how performance data are reported to and used by the
27 legislature;

28 (g) Assess whether the performance measure data are reliable and
29 collected in a uniform and timely manner; and

30 (h) Make recommendations as necessary.

31 (3) Completed performance measure reviews shall be presented to the
32 joint legislative audit and review committee and published in the same
33 manner as prescribed for performance audits in RCW 44.28.088. Final
34 reports shall also be transmitted to the appropriate policy and fiscal
35 committees of the legislature.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 44.28.071 and 1996 c 288 s 9 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

1 (1) In conducting performance audits and other reviews, the
2 legislative auditor shall work closely with the chairs and staff of
3 standing committees of the senate and house of representatives, and may
4 work in consultation with the state auditor and the director of
5 financial management.

6 (2) The legislative auditor may contract with and consult with
7 public and private independent professional and technical experts as
8 necessary in conducting the performance audits. The legislative
9 auditor should also involve front-line employees and internal auditors
10 in the performance audit process to the highest possible degree.

11 (3) The legislative auditor shall work with the legislative
12 evaluation and accountability program committee and the office of
13 financial management to develop information system capabilities
14 necessary for the performance audit requirements of this chapter.

15 (4) The legislative auditor shall work with the (~~legislative~~
16 ~~office of performance review and the~~) office of financial management
17 and the office of the state auditor to facilitate the implementation of
18 effective performance measures throughout state government. In
19 agencies and programs where effective systems for performance
20 measurement exist, the measurements incorporated into those systems
21 should be a basis for performance audits conducted under this chapter.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
25 immediately.

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