
SENATE BILL 5944

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Hill, Rivers, Litzow, Bailey, Braun, Brown, Parlette, Hewitt, and Benton

Read first time 02/12/15. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to periodic review of state spending programs;
2 and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in
5 this section, every new statutory state spending program shall
6 include an expiration date that is no more than ten years from the
7 effective date of the spending program.

8 (b) A future amendment that modifies or expands a statutory state
9 spending program does not extend the statutory state spending program
10 beyond the period provided in this subsection unless an extension is
11 expressly and unambiguously stated in the amendment.

12 (2) For the purposes of this chapter, "new statutory state
13 spending program" means a state statute that:

14 (a) After January 1, 2016, establishes a new state expenditure
15 program, establishes a new state agency or department, expands a
16 state entitlement program, or establishes a new or expanded
17 distribution of state revenues to political subdivisions of the state
18 or other entities; and

19 (b) Is projected to result in increased state expenditures in
20 excess of one million dollars in state funds in the program's first
21 full fiscal biennium of implementation.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) As provided in this section, every
2 bill enacting a new statutory state spending program must include a
3 state spending performance statement.

4 (2) A state spending performance statement must state the
5 legislative purpose for the new state spending program. In addition
6 to identifying the general legislative purpose of the state spending,
7 the state spending performance statement must provide additional
8 detailed information regarding the legislative purpose of the new
9 state spending.

10 (3) A state spending performance statement must specify clear,
11 relevant, and ascertainable metrics and data requirements that allow
12 the joint legislative audit and review committee and the legislature
13 to measure the effectiveness of the new state spending program in
14 achieving the purpose designated under subsection (2) of this
15 section.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review
17 committee must review new statutory state spending programs according
18 to a schedule developed by the committee. The committee must
19 consider, but not be limited to, the following factors in the review
20 as relevant to each particular new statutory state spending program:

21 (a) Public policy objectives that might provide a justification
22 for the new statutory state spending program, including but not
23 limited to the state spending performance statement under section 2
24 of this act, the legislative history, and any legislative intent;

25 (b) Evidence that the existence of the new statutory state
26 spending program has contributed to the achievement of any of the
27 public policy objectives;

28 (c) The extent to which continuation of the new statutory state
29 spending program might contribute to any of the public policy
30 objectives;

31 (d) The extent to which the new statutory state spending program
32 may provide unintended benefits to an individual, organization, or
33 industry other than those the legislature intended;

34 (e) The feasibility of modifying the new statutory state spending
35 program to better achieve the intended objectives; and

36 (f) Fiscal impacts of the new statutory state spending program,
37 including past impacts and expected future impacts if it is
38 continued.

1 (2) For each new statutory state spending program, the committee
2 must provide a recommendation to the fiscal committees of the
3 legislature as to whether the new statutory state spending program
4 should be continued without modification, modified, scheduled for
5 sunset review at a future date, or terminated immediately. If the
6 committee determines that the new statutory state spending program
7 does not achieve the ascertainable metrics specified in the state
8 spending performance statement under section 2 of this act, the
9 committee shall recommend termination of the program. The committee
10 may recommend accountability standards for the future review of a new
11 statutory state spending program.

12 (3) If a new statutory state spending program does not include
13 the information required under section 2 of this act, the joint
14 legislative audit and review committee is not required to perform a
15 review under this section, and it is legislatively presumed that it
16 is the intent of the legislature to allow the new statutory state
17 spending program to expire on its scheduled expiration date.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
19 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
21 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
22 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
23 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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