

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHB 1733

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Ways & Means, April 9, 2013

Title: An act relating to transparency in state capital and transportation budget appropriations and expenditures.

Brief Description: Requiring capital and transportation project investments to be searchable by the public for certain detailed information.

Sponsors: Representatives Riccelli, Hawkins, Bergquist, Alexander, Fitzgibbon, Buys, Tarleton, Manweller, Vick, Reykdal, Sawyer, Sells, Springer, Ryu, Clibborn, Angel, Jinkins, Maxwell, Pollet, Farrell, Moscoso, Ormsby, Morrell and Magendanz.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/05/13, 96-0.

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 3/19/13, 3/27/13, 4/09/13 [DPA, DNP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Hill, Chair; Baumgartner, Vice Chair; Honeyford, Capital Budget Chair; Bailey, Becker, Braun, Conway, Dammeier, Hasegawa, Hewitt, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, Padden, Parlette, Rivers, Schoesler and Tom.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Ranking Member; Hatfield, Murray and Ranker.

Staff: Brian Sims (786-7431)

Background: Under the state Budget and Accounting Act, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) maintains a comprehensive financial accounting and reporting system for all agencies of state government. This system accounts for revenues, expenditures, receipts, and disbursements, as well as statewide budget information.

The Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) Committee was established in 1977 to be the Legislature's independent source of information and technology. LEAP provides fiscal information and technology for developing budgets and communicating budget decisions, and tracking revenue, expenditure, and staffing activity.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

In 2008, the Legislature directed OFM to make publicly available a state expenditure information website that contains for the prior fiscal year: (1) state expenditures by fund or account; (2) expenditures by agency, program, and subprogram; (3) state revenues by source; (4) state expenditures by budget, object, and subobject; and (5) state agency workloads, caseloads, and performance measurements. This information is available on LEAP's Washington State Fiscal Information website.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments): Current and future capital project and transportation project investments must be made available to the public on the website in an accessible format, for example a geographical map where an individual can view capital and transportation project appropriation and expenditure data by legislative district, county, or agency project. This appropriation and expenditure data must include the project title, total appropriation, project description, expenditure data, and must identify the administering agency.

LEAP must use existing resources to meet these requirements and update the website. The website must be easy to use, contain current and readily available data, and allow for review and analysis by the public. LEAP must test the website with potential users to ensure its accessibility and ease of comprehension.

Requires a summary of capital budget proposals by legislative district by certain categories at various stages of the budget development process.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE (Recommended Amendments): Adds a provision that requires a summary of capital budget proposals by legislative district, by certain categories, at various stages of the budget development process.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: None.

Persons Testifying: No one.