

2 **HB 1583** - S COMM AMD

3 By Committee on Government Operations

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "**Sec. 1.** RCW 42.41.030 and 1992 c 44 s 3 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) Every local government employee has the right to report to the
10 appropriate person or persons information concerning an alleged
11 improper governmental action.

12 (2) The governing body or chief administrative officer of each
13 local government shall adopt a policy on the appropriate procedures to
14 follow for reporting such information and shall provide information to
15 their employees on the policy. Local governments are encouraged to
16 consult with their employees on the policy.

17 (3) The policy shall describe the appropriate person or persons
18 within the local government to whom to report information and a list of
19 appropriate person or persons outside the local government to whom to
20 report. The list shall include the county prosecuting attorney.

21 (4) Each local government shall permanently post a summary of the
22 procedures for reporting information on an alleged improper
23 governmental action and the procedures for protection against
24 retaliatory actions described in RCW 42.41.040 in a place where all
25 employees will have reasonable access to it. A copy of the summary
26 shall be made available to any employee upon request.

27 (5) A local government may require as part of its policy that,
28 except in the case of an emergency, before an employee provides
29 information of an improper governmental action to a person or an entity
30 who is not a public official or a person listed pursuant to subsection
31 (3) of this section, the employee shall submit a written report to the
32 local government. Where a local government has adopted such a policy
33 under this section, an employee who fails to make a good faith attempt
34 to follow the policy shall not receive the protections of this chapter.

35 (6) If a local government has failed to adopt a policy as required
36 by subsection (2) of this section, an employee may report alleged

1 improper government action directly to the county prosecuting attorney
2 or, if the prosecuting attorney or an employee of the prosecuting
3 attorney participated in the alleged improper government action, to the
4 state auditor. The cost incurred by the state auditor in such
5 investigations shall be paid by the local government through the
6 municipal revolving account authorized in RCW 43.09.282.

7 (7) The identity of a reporting employee shall be kept confidential
8 to the extent possible under law, unless the employee authorizes the
9 disclosure of his or her identity in writing."

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13 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "reporting;" strike the
14 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 42.41.030."

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