State Government Operations & Accountability Committee

HB 1436

Brief Description: Allowing public funding of local office campaigns.

Sponsors: Representatives McDermott, Clibborn, Dickerson, Santos, Moeller, Simpson and McIntire.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Allows the use of public funds for campaigns for local office.

Hearing Date: 1/10/06

Staff: Stephanie Toby (786-7106).

Background:

In November of 1992, Washington voters approved Initiative 134 (I-134), which imposed limitations on campaign contributions. Initiative 134 prohibited the use of public funds for financing political campaigns for state or local office.

The Public Disclosure Commission (Commission) is charged with enforcing the campaign finance provisions of I-134. The Commission judges enforcement cases brought before them for hearing and possible imposition of penalty.

Summary of Bill:

The prohibition against the use of public funds to finance campaigns for local office is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.