

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 3109

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections, February 22, 2006

Title: An act relating to government performance and accountability.

Brief Description: Addressing government performance and accountability.

Sponsors: House Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability (originally sponsored by Representatives Miloscia, Morrell and O'Brien; by request of Governor Gregoire).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/11/06, 96-0.

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 2/20/06, 2/22/06 [DP-WM, DNP].

Ways & Means: .

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Kastama, Chair; Berkey, Vice Chair; Roach, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, Haugen, Kline and Mulliken.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Fairley.

Staff: Diane Smith (786-7410)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Steve Jones (786-7440)

Background: During the 2005 session, the Legislature passed ESHB 1064, Improving Government Performance and Accountability. The bill created the Citizen Advisory Board (Board) to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in state government, and to work with the auditor in the conduct of performance audits. In addition to establishing criteria for performance audits, the Board is directed to conduct a statewide performance review as a precursor to a performance audit work plan.

At the last general election, the voters of this state approved Initiative 900. The Initiative authorizes the State Auditor to conduct independent, comprehensive performance audits of state and local governments and each of its agencies, accounts, and programs, as well as the judicial and legislative branches of government.

The Initiative did not repeal any of the provisions of ESHB 1064, so both must be followed to the extent that there are no conflicts.

State agencies are permitted to support the Washington State Quality Award Program through memberships, by sending employees to performance excellence workshops and symposiums, and by sponsoring employees to become quality assessment examiners.

Statutes related to the Board's role in performance audits are repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: Yes.

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

Testimony For: It is important that citizens' voices be heard. This bill pulls out staffing and performance reviews so the cost is down to \$500,000.

Testimony Against: None.

Who Testified: PRO: Antonio Ginatta, Office of the Governor.