
HOUSE BILL 1873

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Pruitt, Sprenkle, Riley, R. Johnson, R. Meyers, Phillips, Ogden, Jacobsen, Haugen, Roland, Rasmussen and Orr.

Read first time February 13, 1991. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to accountability in state government; adding a new
2 chapter to Title 43 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 44 RCW; creating
3 a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a
6 growing demand for a new level of accountability in government. The
7 public is asking its government whether desired results are actually
8 accomplished, not just what volume of services is provided. In
9 addition, policy makers need more accurate information for setting
10 policy and allocating resources. Agency directors need better
11 information on whether new and existing programs are effective. Mid-
12 level managers must be able to determine how efficiently they
13 administer programs. Front-line employees must be given the necessary
14 data to suggest creative ways to improve program operations.

1 The legislature finds that state government needs an integrated,
2 comprehensive accountability system that involves an ongoing cycle of
3 policy planning, quality management, and program evaluation to provide
4 needed information to users. The legislature further finds that
5 establishing such an integrated system requires direct involvement and
6 commitment from the public, the legislature, the governor, the office
7 of financial management, and state agencies. Establishing an
8 integrated accountability system is a long-term process that will
9 require a sustained effort.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is established a government
11 accountability consortium. The consortium shall serve as the
12 collaborative institutional arrangement for sharing skills, knowledge,
13 methodologies, and information among the agencies involved in program
14 evaluation. The consortium shall work to ensure the cooperative
15 involvement of all affected parties in an integrated program evaluation
16 system, including the governor and state agencies, the legislature,
17 business and labor, K-12 and higher education, and the general public.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The composition of the government
19 accountability consortium shall be as follows: The governor, the
20 director of the office of financial management, two agency directors to
21 be appointed by the governor, the commissioner of public lands, the
22 secretary of transportation, the director of the department of
23 information services, the director of the department of personnel, the
24 state auditor, the chair of the productivity board, the senate majority
25 leader, the speaker of the house of representatives, one legislator
26 from each caucus in the senate to be appointed by the senate majority
27 leader, one legislator from each caucus in the house of representatives
28 to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, the

1 chair of the legislative budget committee, the superintendent of public
2 instruction, the chair of the higher education coordinating board,
3 three citizens to be appointed by the governor, two representatives
4 from the business community appointed by the governor, and two
5 representatives from state-wide labor organizations to be appointed by
6 the governor. One of the labor representatives shall represent state
7 employees. Each member of the consortium may name a designee to
8 represent that member in consortium activities. The governor shall
9 designate one of the three citizens to serve as chair of the
10 consortium, subject to the consent of the senate.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The government accountability consortium
12 shall:

13 (1) Provide technical assistance to agencies in initiating,
14 conducting, and using the results of evaluations to improve program
15 efficiency and effectiveness;

16 (2) Share evaluation information and results;

17 (3) Develop standard definitions of commonly used program
18 evaluation terms;

19 (4) Compile an inventory of state employees who have expertise in
20 specific program methodologies and other needed skills;

21 (5) Assist in developing training programs in evaluation
22 methodologies and make them available to state employees;

23 (6) Assist in identifying or developing readily accessible data
24 systems for processing, analyzing, and storing evaluation data;

25 (7) Work toward establishing a common basic set of data elements on
26 programs; and

27 (8) Establish a clearinghouse for program evaluation results and
28 information from other states and the federal government.

1 sharing of evaluation expertise; (e) use of sound evaluation approaches
2 and methodologies; (f) standardization of a core set of program
3 measures to the extent possible; and (g) timely, user-oriented, and
4 visually attractive reporting of evaluation results.

5 In addition, the consortium shall provide an annual report to the
6 governor on the status and results of total quality management
7 initiatives in state government.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** There shall be an administrator of the
9 consortium in charge of consortium staff. The administrator shall be
10 appointed by the director of the office of financial management. Staff
11 shall be provided by the office of financial management. The
12 administrator of the consortium shall be exempt from the provisions of
13 chapter 41.06 RCW. Consortium staff shall facilitate and provide
14 technical assistance for program evaluations, coordinate education and
15 training for agency personnel, develop useful evaluation guidelines,
16 prepare and distribute publications and reports, and serve as a source
17 for program evaluation information. State universities may also
18 contribute technical assistance through an evaluation advisory group.
19 The administrator of the consortium shall have the authority to solicit
20 and accept grants and other funding from public and private sources in
21 order to defray the costs of consortium activities.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** There is established a joint
23 executive/legislative committee on planning to conduct a study and
24 prepare recommendations for the establishment of a strategic planning
25 process for state government. The study will specifically address
26 public, legislative, and executive roles, processes, and structures to
27 (1) identify policy options and priorities and expected program
28 performance outcomes, (2) effectively translate policy direction into

1 efficient, effective and appropriate programs, and (3) utilize program
2 evaluation information in planning and management. Staff support for
3 this committee shall be provided by senate committee services and the
4 office of program research in the house of representatives. The
5 findings and recommendations from the planning study shall be submitted
6 to the legislature and to the accountability consortium by July 1,
7 1992.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The joint executive/legislative planning
9 committee shall have fifteen members. One member shall be the governor
10 or the governor's designee. One legislator shall be appointed from
11 each caucus by the senate majority leader and the speaker of the house
12 of representatives. One member shall be the director of the office of
13 financial management or the director's designee. Three members shall
14 be agency directors appointed by the governor or the directors'
15 designees. Two members shall represent the business community, one of
16 whom shall be appointed by the governor and one of whom shall be
17 appointed jointly by the senate majority leader and the speaker of the
18 house of representatives. Two members shall represent the interest of
19 labor, one of whom shall be appointed by the governor and one of whom
20 shall be appointed jointly by the senate majority leader and the
21 speaker of the house of representatives. Two members shall represent
22 citizen interest groups, one of whom shall be appointed by the governor
23 and one of whom shall be appointed jointly by the senate majority
24 leader and the speaker of the house of representatives.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** In order to overcome data collection,
26 processing, and analysis problems, the office of financial management,
27 in concert with the accountability consortium staff, shall conduct a
28 study to determine state-wide program evaluation data needs. Based

1 upon the needs identified, the office of financial management and
2 accountability consortium staff shall define a readily accessible data
3 collection system to support program evaluation. The findings and
4 recommendations from this study shall be presented to the governor and
5 to the legislature in the 1992 legislative session.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall
7 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 7 and 8 of this act shall
9 constitute a new chapter in Title 44 RCW.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The sum of five hundred sixty-four
11 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
12 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
13 fund to the office of financial management for the purposes of carrying
14 out the duties specified in this act.