
HOUSE BILL 1177

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representative Stokesbary

1 AN ACT Relating to periodic review of state spending programs;
2 and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in
5 this section, every new statutory state spending program shall
6 include an expiration date that is no more than ten years from the
7 effective date of the spending program.

8 (b) A future amendment that modifies or expands a statutory state
9 spending program does not extend the statutory state spending program
10 beyond the period provided in this subsection unless an extension is
11 expressly and unambiguously stated in the amendment.

12 (2) For the purposes of this chapter, "new statutory state
13 spending program" means a state statute that:

14 (a) After January 1, 2022, establishes a new state expenditure
15 program, establishes a new state agency or department, expands a
16 state entitlement program, or establishes a new or expanded
17 distribution of state revenues to political subdivisions of the state
18 or other entities; and

19 (b) Is projected to result in increased state expenditures in
20 excess of one million dollars in state funds in the program's first

1 full fiscal biennium of implementation, and is not self-supported by
2 fees.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) As provided in this section, every
4 bill enacting a new statutory state spending program must include a
5 state spending performance statement.

6 (2) A state spending performance statement must state the
7 legislative purpose for the new statutory state spending program. In
8 addition to identifying the general legislative purpose of the state
9 spending, the state spending performance statement must provide
10 additional detailed information regarding the legislative purpose of
11 the new state spending.

12 (3) A state spending performance statement must specify clear,
13 relevant, and ascertainable metrics and data requirements that allow
14 the joint legislative audit and review committee and the legislature
15 to measure the effectiveness of the new statutory state spending
16 program in achieving the purpose designated under subsection (2) of
17 this section.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review
19 committee must review new statutory state spending programs according
20 to a schedule developed by the committee. The committee must
21 consider, but not be limited to, the following factors in the review
22 as relevant to each particular new statutory state spending program:

23 (a) Public policy objectives that might provide a justification
24 for the new statutory state spending program, including but not
25 limited to the state spending performance statement under section 2
26 of this act, the legislative history, and any legislative intent;

27 (b) Evidence that the existence of the new statutory state
28 spending program has contributed to the achievement of any of the
29 public policy objectives;

30 (c) The extent to which continuation of the new statutory state
31 spending program might contribute to any of the public policy
32 objectives;

33 (d) The extent to which the new statutory state spending program
34 may provide unintended benefits to an individual, organization, or
35 industry other than those the legislature intended;

36 (e) The feasibility of modifying the new statutory state spending
37 program to better achieve the intended objectives; and

1 (f) Fiscal impacts of the new statutory state spending program,
2 including past impacts and expected future impacts if it is
3 continued.

4 (2) For each new statutory state spending program, the committee
5 must provide a recommendation to the fiscal committees of the
6 legislature as to whether the new statutory state spending program
7 should be continued without modification, modified, scheduled for
8 sunset review at a future date, or terminated immediately. If the
9 committee determines that the new statutory state spending program
10 does not achieve the ascertainable metrics specified in the state
11 spending performance statement under section 2 of this act, the
12 committee shall recommend termination of the program. The committee
13 may recommend accountability standards for the future review of a new
14 statutory state spending program.

15 (3) If a new statutory state spending program does not include
16 the information required under section 2 of this act, the joint
17 legislative audit and review committee is not required to perform a
18 review under this section, and it is legislatively presumed that it
19 is the intent of the legislature to allow the new statutory state
20 spending program to expire on its scheduled expiration date.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
22 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
24 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
25 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
26 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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