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HOUSE BILL 1207

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Young, Taylor, Shea, J. Walsh, and McCaslin

1       AN ACT Relating to reporting agreements between state agencies  
2       and the federal government; adding a new section to chapter 43.88  
3       RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5       NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 1.**   The legislature is responsible for the  
6       oversight and control of the state budget as it applies to the  
7       various state agencies. The legislature finds that state agencies  
8       regularly enter into a wide variety of agreements with the federal  
9       government, requiring the commitment of state resources, but that are  
10      neither reviewed nor expressly approved by the legislature.  
11      Accordingly, a statutory mechanism is needed to provide the  
12      legislature with comprehensive information regarding these federal  
13      agreements in order to enable the legislature to monitor and evaluate  
14      the budgetary and fiscal impacts of the agreements, as well as their  
15      policy implications. This act provides a statutory framework for  
16      ongoing legislative oversight of the agreements between state  
17      agencies and the federal government and will thus enable the  
18      legislature to better exercise its authority to review and control  
19      the expenditure of state resources.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 43.88  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) On or before November 1, 2017, and not later than November  
4    1st each year thereafter, each state agency shall submit a written  
5    report to the speaker and minority leader of the Washington house of  
6    representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Washington  
7    senate, and the governor, providing a comprehensive, detailed  
8    description of every agreement between the agency and the federal  
9    government. At minimum, the report must contain the following  
10   information:

11        (a) The type of agreement, including a comprehensive description  
12   of its contents;

13        (b) The purposes, goals, and public benefits to be derived from  
14   the agreement;

15        (c) A detailed description, including the dollar amounts, of any  
16   grants, funds, revenues, or fiscal impacts likely to result from the  
17   agreement;

18        (d) The identification of the specific statute, rule, or  
19   constitutional provision providing the legal basis for the agreement;

20        (e) The identification of the specific agencies, both state and  
21   federal, entering into the agreement; and

22        (f) The identification of every state officer, employee, or other  
23   state agent participating in the creation, negotiation, or approval  
24   of the agreement.

25        (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
26   section.

27        (a) "Agency" means and includes every state office, officer, and  
28   employee, and every institution, department, board, and commission.

29        (b) "Agreement" means any contract, agreement, memorandum of  
30   understanding, or other arrangement between a state agency and the  
31   federal government that requires an agency or other state  
32   governmental entity to take action or otherwise expend state  
33   resources in order to comply with the terms of the agreement.

34        (3) This section applies to all agreements in effect as of the  
35   effective date of this section and to all agreements entered into or  
36   renewed on or after July 1, 2017.

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