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HOUSE BILL 2537

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Stokesbary, Kilduff, Zeiger, Chandler, and Moeller

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, 2017, 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 state spending program. In addition  
8 to identifying the general legislative purpose of the state spending,  
9 the state spending performance statement must provide additional  
10 detailed information regarding the legislative purpose of the new  
11 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 state spending program in  
16 achieving the purpose designated under subsection (2) of this  
17 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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