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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1173

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1173

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1173

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 25, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 1924

Committee Clerk Signature 

Minutes:

Rep. Carlson: *We have the budget in our section of the legislative council and maybe this is something we could have added into the budget but I thought it was more a policy then budgetary. At the present time there really is little or no involvement on the part of legislative council and so all legislation here understand how they function, they are the governing arm of the legislator when we aren't in session. At this point in time I'm on the council and I've been chair for a couple of times. We have never reviewed the budget for our own agency. We are one of the branches of government, we are the third branch, we are the funding and the policy branch, but yet I felt that our duties should review the budget. For example, our computers are four years old and they are beyond the replacement cycle, and there will be new money put in which should have been in last biennium's budget. Because we had little or not input, council being as frivolous as they are, never put the computers in, and didn't get our computers replaced. SO everyone else was getting new replacements for computers except for us. WE should have at least asked the question and reviewed the budgets. The people that work for us to prepare their bills are not being paid on par. We loose our people to the other agencies where they get an \$8-10,000 raise by being recruited by another agency and I believe that is wrong. If we can't do it on our own we need to be required to. If you read the statute it says*

that those people work for the legislator. We should review those people and the needs. We have not created a new position at legislative council since 1979. You've got to wonder that we may have needed new council.

Rep. Haas: The second part of the bill, section 2, actually addresses two issues. Studying the compensation system in order to keep salaries on a par is a whole lot different then establishing an employee performance evaluation.

Rep. Carlson: That has been a project of mine since I've been here. After our session there are many agencies including DPI and OMB that will give bonuses to their employees for the hard work and the extra hours they put in during the session. Our people work just as hard as their people and we don't do that. Our people are here Saturdays and Sundays preparing bills for us so that when we get back here Monday morning our bills are ready. If you call on a Saturday the phone will probably get picked up by our people working on our bill. SO should we review merit performance for the work they do for us? I believe they should. I think someone should be assigned to do that. That is part of the bill as well.

Rep. Weiler: I don't disagree with this, but the employees of Legislative Council get the hours back that they put in. They can build them up. In the summertime they have limited hours that they have to be at work. I'm wondering if the employees from DPI and those agencies are getting comp time and the bonuses. I guess I got a problem with that.

Rep. Carlson: I couldn't answer that question. WE have funded an extra \$100-300 by employees for their extra time and effort. We need to take care of the people that work for us. We always seem to be afraid to spend money on ourselves. We do not have a staff, we do not have an office, and we don't have people preparing our notes. We rely on them for everything we do. We as a legislator need to be more involved with that process. They have put out 525 bills. Those people do an amazing job.

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House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1173

Hearing Date: January 25, 2007

Rep. Haas: Is there any more testimony for HB 1173? If not I will close hearing on HB 1173.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1173

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 1, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2526

Committee Clerk Signature

Morgan Ben

Minutes:

Rep. Haas: Let's look at HB 1173. It does not have any fiscal impact. The reason I've held this bill for so long is because I've discussed the bill at great length with the legislative council and other legislature members. My personal feeling is that the bill is not necessary. The process by which the legislative branch reviews the legislative council on budget, the legislative council has opportunity to view the budget. They have all sorts of opportunities to change it. I think there is opportunity to legislative council to accept the budget. I think the legislative council has the ability to establish because the budget is developed by them, and set a timeline to when they want to review it. This is all in my opinion now. In regards to the second section of the bill, I had spoken with John Olsrud. He had an evaluation that begins as a self evaluation by every employee in the legislative council, and then the director sits down at the person and looks at the strengths and weaknesses of that employee. Since I've been in the legislature I have never heard of any complaints about any of the employees in legislative council. My person feelings are that when I go up to work with any of the staff they are extremely competent, they bend over backwards to do what we need and to get it done when we need it. I just don't think the bill is necessary, so with that I will open the floor for pre motion discussion on this bill.

Rep. Kasper: I want to talk about the other side of the coin for one moment. In the first part the review and approval of the budget request for the legislative branch. I talked to some of the members of the legislative council from our party, not from the democrat. The feedback I've gotten from some of them is that they don't pay enough attention to this because there is not a formal process or requirements. I'll give you an example of something that I've think has been mishandled for a long time, and that is our computers. When we were given our computers that we have now, the software should have been changed then. We are the only legislative branch of government that is on this old system of software and computers. There was no formal process from the legislative side to evaluate what was going on. There was not enough oversight from the legislative council, and now it is six years later. We had a proposal that we were going to get new computers at the end of this legislative session. If we were going to get new computers it should be before we start, not at the end. Now we are going to go through two years of old software again. I think there are some problems with that process inside of legislative council that if this bill was passed the legislative council itself would be required to pay more attention which I believe is good. One the second part is the employee performance. Put yourself in the shoes of the legislative council staff. They certainly would never bring up a concern or problem with us. They are too professional. IF they do have a concern or problem about their budget, who do they go to? They ought to have a place that is set up. I think that this would put into place a new process.

Rep. Potter: Does anyone know who at this point or what the process is for the legislative council to get an increase in their pay? I'm not clear in my own mind what brought this on.

Rep. Haas: My understanding of this is that the legislative council budget is set there is additional money proposed for that biennium. I can not tell you what system they use.

Rep. Froseth: As far as the turnover for the legislative council, the same people have been there every year I've been here. They may have had one or two new ones since 1993. They work hard and there extra time now is just comp time off in the summer when everyone is cleared out of here. They are very dedicated and must like their task because there is very little turnover.

Rep. Haas: I heard two questions which were do council members get the four plus four or how are there pay raises determined, and how are there pay raises given. Would you want answers to these questions before we act on the bill? We still do have a lot of time.

Rep. Amerman: I move a do not pass.

Rep. Meier: I Second that.

Rep. Haas: Is there any further discussion? If not I'll take a roll call vote. The do not pass motion passes 8-2-3. Is there a volunteer to carry it to the floor?

Rep. Boehning: I will.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/08/2007

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1173

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

The bill requires the Legislative Council to review the legislative branch budget request prior to submitting it to the Office of Management and Budget for inclusion in the executive budget and to establish an employee performance related compensation system for the Legislative Council staff.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

The bill has no fiscal impact.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

Name:	Jim W. Smith	Agency:	Legislative Council
Phone Number:	328-2916	Date Prepared:	01/09/2007

Date: 2-1-07
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

HB 1173

Action Taken

Do not pass

Motion Made By

Rep Amerman

Seconded By

Rep Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Rep. Bette Grande VC			Rep. Louise Potter	X	
Rep. Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Jasper Schneider		
Rep. Stacey Dahl			Rep. Lisa Wolf	X	
Rep. Glen Froseth	X				
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Jim Kasper		X			
Rep. Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Dave Weiler		X			

Total

(Yes)

8

No

2

Absent

3

Floor Assignment

Rep. Boehning

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 1, 2007 1:24 p.m.

Module No: HR-22-1814
Carrier: Boehning
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1173: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1173 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.