DIGEST

SB 187 Original   2017 Regular Session   Hewitt

Proposed law provides that, beginning with the Fiscal Year 2019 budget cycle, the Legislative Fiscal Office shall require all agencies with responsibilities to deliver services in the areas of child welfare, mental health, and substance abuse (including local entities that receive state funding for these areas), to comply with certain requirements with respect to the inventorying of agency programs and the computation of benefit-cost ratios for use in the budgeting process.

Proposed law provides that the Legislative Fiscal Office, office of planning and budget in the division of administration, and personnel of appropriate agencies, including the local entities, shall review the programs of each agency and shall:

(1)   Establish an inventory of programs.

(2)   Categorize all agency programs and activities as evidence-based, research-based, promising practices, or other programs and activities with no evidence of effectiveness, and compile them into an agency program inventory. In categorizing programs, the staffs may consult the Washington State Institute for Public Policy's Evidence-Based Practices Institute's program catalogue, the Results First Clearinghouse Database, or any other comparable catalogue of evidence-based programs.

(3)   Determine benefit-cost ratios for all evidence-based programs in the selected policy areas.

Proposed law also requires the Legislative Fiscal Office to report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget the results of all activities, with recommendations for further evaluation of research-based or promising practices programs, the elimination or replacement of ineffective programs, and the funding of effective programs, based on benefit-cost ratios and the learnings gained. Proposed law further specifies that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget may incorporate such recommendations into the Fiscal Year 2019 budget and appropriations bills, or delay such incorporation until the committee is satisfied that the information collected and inventoried will enhance accountability and performance measurement for the programs and activities of state agencies.

Proposed law also requires the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget to, no later than the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature, make a recommendation to the legislature regarding the application of the processes and requirements of this Section to other policy areas with evidenced-based programs.

Effective July 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 39:2(13.1), (33.1), (36.1), (36.2), (37.1), (37.2), (37.3), (40.1), and 87.7; repeals R.S. 39:2(38) and (39))