HB 743 Original   2016 Regular Session   Schroder

Abstract: Creates the statutory entity review subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget to review information received by standing committees under the Sunset Law and other reports received by agencies.

Proposed law creates the statutory entity review subcommittee (the review subcommittee) of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB). Provides that the subcommittee shall conduct sunset review and may conduct activities related to the termination of unfunded programs and acts and activities related to reports prepared by the department secretaries as described below:

SUNSET REVIEW

Present law (the Sunset Law, R.S. 49:190, et seq.) provides for termination of each state agency, department, and office ("statutory entity") and a procedure for standing committees of the legislature to conduct a comprehensive evaluation to determine if the merits of the activities of the entity support its continuation. Statutory entities are assigned to standing committees by the presiding officer of each house and are required to provide information to the standing committees.

Proposed law authorizes the review subcommittee to request the same information statutory entities are required to submit to the standing committees. Further requires the statutory entities to provide to the JLCB the same information submitted to the standing committees.

Present law establishes the purposes of the evaluations of the standing committees as:

(1)   The elimination of inactive entities.

(2)   The elimination or consolidation of entities, programs, or activities which duplicate other governmental entities, programs, or activities.

(3)   The elimination of unnecessary entities, programs, or activities or entities, programs, or activities which no longer serve the public interest.

(4)   The elimination or improvement of inefficient or ineffective entities, programs, or activities.

(5)   The elimination or revision of entities, programs, or activities that are inconsistent with the intent of legislation authorizing the entity, program, or activity.

<u>Proposed law</u> establishes the same purposes of the evaluations for the review subcommittee.

TERMINATION OF UNFUNDED PROGRAMS AND ACTS

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 49:191.1) requires each state budget unit to compile a listing of all legislatively authorized programs directing any activity to be administered by the budget unit for which implementing funds were not appropriated in the prior fiscal year. Requires the reports to be submitted to the JLCB. Requires the JLCB to submit its findings and recommendations to the members of the legislature not later than two weeks prior to each regular session of the legislature.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the review subcommittee to conduct the review, analysis and study of the listings required under <u>present law</u> and report its findings and recommendations to the JLCB in time for the committee to incorporate the findings in the report the JLCB is required to submit under <u>present law</u>.

UNDERSECRETARY REPORT

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 36:8(C)) requires each department secretary to submit the undersecretary report prior to Dec. 5 of each year relating to management and program analysis to the House Committee on Appropriations, to the Senate Committee on Finance, and to the legislative standing committee having oversight of the department. The legislative committees which receive reports as provided <u>present law</u> shall conduct hearings to review such reports.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the review subcommittee to conduct the hearings of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Commitee on Finance required in <u>present law</u>.

(Amends R.S. 49:193(B)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 24:653(N))