

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

February 17, 2005
3:10 P.M.

Hearing Room B
Tapes 18 - 19

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Frank Shields, Chair
Sen. Bruce Starr
Sen. Joanne Verger
Sen. Vicki Walker

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Gary George, Vice-Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Judith Callens, Committee Administrator
Gary Roulier, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:
SB 316 – Public Hearing
SB 387 – Public Hearing
SB 388 – Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
TAPE 18, A		
003	Chair Shields	Opens the meeting at 3:16 p.m. and opens a public hearing on SB 316.
<u>SB 316 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
008	Judith Callens	Administrator. Explains the provisions of the bill.
020	Lydia Muniz	Governor's Advocate for Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses (Advocate). Testifies in support of SB 316.
042	Muniz	Summarizes the intent of the bill, which would require state agencies to notify the Advocate of the award of public contracts with a value of \$5,000 or more.
061	Muniz	Outlines an amendment that would address those state agencies that fall outside the purview of Department of Administrative Services (DAS) authority.
073	Chair Shields	Asks how the timeline would reflect itself in the statute.
080	Muniz	Responds that the statute requires "timely" notification and would be determined through administrative rules.
086	Dianne Lancaster	Chief Procurement Officer, DAS. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT A) and testifies in support of the bill.
114	Sen. Verger	Asks if there would be a fiscal impact.
117	Lancaster	Answers that they have a system in place to capture the information and there would be no further cost.
125	Sen. B. Starr	Asks if there would be a cost associated with state agencies meeting these reporting requirements.
135	Lancaster	Responds that the DAS agencies are implementing a system that requires them to report any contracts exceeding \$5,000, but she cannot speak for the other state agencies.
154	Sen. B. Starr	Notes that it would be helpful to have a list of the agencies not

		under DAS authority.
162	Chair Shields	Asks if the information gathered could be embarrassing to the state.
171	Muniz	Answers that is a difficult question as they do not presently have a state-wide collection site.
179	Sandra Bishop	Fair Competition Alliance. Testifies in support of SB 316. Expresses a concern on whether or not the contracts mandated to go to non-profits would be awarded before or after the notification went to the Advocate.
218	Andre Baugh	Group AGB. Testifies in support of the bill. Notes that this will be a valuable tool for solid data collection.
259	Chair Shields	Closes the public hearing on SB 316 and opens a public hearing on SB 387.

SB 387 – PUBLIC HEARING

263	Callens	Explains the provisions of the bill.
280	Susan Wilson	Administrator, Human Resource Services Division, DAS. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT B) and a program explanation for the Employee Suggestion Program (EXHIBIT C) and testifies that DAS is neutral on SB 387.
329	Wilson	Explains the current structure and staffing of the Employee Suggestion Awards Commission.
374	Chair Shields	Asks if they are more comfortable with the system at present or with the proposed system suggested in the bill.
378	Wilson	Answers that they are comfortable with the ability they have at present to staff and manage the program.
389	Sen. Verger	Notes that this is a huge expansion of the program.
398	Sen. Walker	Agrees that if the system is not broken, it should not need fixing.
413	Chair Shields	Closes the public hearing on SB 387 and opens a public hearing on SB 388.

SB 388 – PUBLIC HEARING

423	Wilson	Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT D) and explains the provisions of the bill. Expresses concern over the staffing that would be required.
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TAPE 19, A

003	Wilson	Reviews an informal survey asking if there had been problems within agencies with people making suggestions, and was not able to discover any existing problems.
011	Sen. Walker	Asks for information on the largest suggestion award presented.
016	Wilson	Reviews an award for a suggestion on highway repairs.
027	Amy Klare	Administrator, Civil Rights Division, Bureau of Labor and Industries. Submits written testimony on behalf of Dan Gardner, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (EXHIBIT E) that expresses some concerns with portions of the bill.
070	Mary Botkin	American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Testifies on the intent to protect employees who come forward with suggestions to save money.
111	Botkin	Adds that if suggestions save money, the money should go back into the budget.
155	Botkin	Thinks the suggestion program should be limited to employees.
164	Sen. B. Starr	Asks about the percentages of savings awarded to the person making the suggestion.
187	Botkin	Responds that we would be better off putting the money saved back into the programs. Stresses the value of listening to suggestions from front line workers.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. **SB 316, written testimony, Dianne Lancaaster, 3 pp**
- B. **SB 387, written testimony, Susan Wilson, 2 pp**
- C. **SB 387, program explanation, Susan Wilson, 22 pp**
- D. **SB 388, written testimony, Susan Wilson, 2 pp**
- E. **SB 388, written testimony of Dan Gardner, Amy Klare, 4 pp**