

State of Washington

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC)

Status Report: Implementation of State Auditor I-900 Recommendations to the Legislature

As required by Initiative 900

July 2018



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Initiative 900 requires State Auditor’s Office (SAO) to conduct performance audits

In November 2005, the people of the State of Washington approved Initiative 900 (I-900). The initiative directs the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) to conduct performance audits of state and local government agencies.

Recent SAO audits included six recommendations to the Legislature

The State Auditor released five new performance audit reports in 2017, with a total of six recommendations to the Legislature. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) held a public hearing for each audit.

SAO audit title	SAO Recommendations to the Legislature
Leading practices for the state's secondary career and technical education programs	4
Reducing costs through faster Medicaid income verifications	1
Correctional Industries: Planning, pricing and market share	1
Ensuring transparent pricing and customer-focused IT services at WATech	0
Determining Costs per Student for Washington's Medical Schools	0

Initiative 900 also requires JLARC report on status of SAO’s recommendations to the Legislature

By July 1 of each year, JLARC must report the status of SAO’s recommendations to the Legislature. JLARC does not report on SAO’s recommendations to state or local governments.

JLARC reviews the status of SAO’s recommendations after each legislative session. This report includes the status of 15 recommendations following the 2018 legislative session. The review includes:

- New recommendations (i.e., those made in the calendar year before the legislative session)
- Unresolved recommendations from the previous four years (i.e., a recommendation for which the Legislature has not taken action).

Initiative 900 also states that “justification must be provided for recommendations not implemented.” Since no individual or entity can singularly speak to the reason for legislative action or inaction, JLARC’s auditors could not identify sufficient and appropriate evidence to make definitive conclusions about why recommendations have not been implemented to date. In some cases, the information included in the comment sections provides context for the Legislature’s actions.

This report demonstrates JLARC’s compliance with the status reporting requirement for 2018.

2018 status of the SAO recommendations to the Legislature

The table below summarizes the implementation status of 33 recommendations to the Legislature in the SAO’s performance audits issued in 2014 through 2018. Reporting category definitions are on the next page.

SAO Recommendations to the Legislature	Total	Implemented		Not Implemented		Other
		Adopted as presented	Addressed with different approach	Bills introduced but not adopted	Related or no information	
New in 2017	6	1	1	1	2	1
2014 - 2016	27	5	9	1	11	1

Reporting categories used by JLARC

Implemented

- **Adopted As Presented:** Legislation was passed to implement an SAO recommendation in the manner it was presented in the audit
- **Addressed with Different Approach:** Legislation was passed where the Legislature addressed the issue raised in the recommendation, but via a different approach. This may include recommendations that have been implemented in part.

Not Implemented

- **Bills Introduced on Topic But Not Adopted:** Situation where bills were introduced related to the recommendation topic covered in the recommendation, but the Legislature did not pass them.
- **Related or No Information:** "Related information" refers to a situation where no policy change was passed in legislation, but there was other legislative discussion, such as a work session on the topic. "No information" means there was no evidence of bills, work sessions, or any other formal legislative activity related to the recommendation.

Other

- **Legislature Made Different Policy Choice:** Legislation was passed where the Legislature subsequently made a policy choice different from what SAO recommended.
- **Other Circumstances:** Situation where other relevant circumstances have taken place that may impact the applicability of the recommendation. This includes instances where actions external to the Legislature changed the situation related to the recommendation (e.g., change to federal law, administrative rule, or executive branch program changes).

APPENDIX

RECOMMENDATION STATUS DETAILS

How to read these reports

New or unresolved indicator

SAO audit title and release date

2017 Recommendations

Details from SAO's audit

Leading Practices for the State's Secondary Career & Technical Education Programs
Released December 19, 2017

About the Audit

This performance audit investigates the coordination of agencies involved in career and technical education programs (CTE) and recommends clarifying statutes and improving coordination, oversight, and cooperation across Washington's career and technical education system. The audit found that CTE courses offered in Washington's public schools with the highest enrollment could more strongly align with high wage, high demand occupational areas. The report makes recommendations to the Legislature, OSPI, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, and the SBCTC.

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should require OSPI to work with the State Board of Education to establish a model course framework required for all students in the 7th or 8th grade that: a) teaches students about multiple career paths that include post secondary career and technical education, apprenticeships, military, and 4-year professional opportunities, along with the educational costs and anticipation incomes that accompany each; b) inform students about dual credit opportunities that exist within CTE programs; c) includes the development of students' high school and beyond plans; d) incorporates the improved career bridge website or other comprehensive career guidance tools.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
E2SHB 1600	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SHB 2686	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Comments

E2SHB 1600 established the work-integrated learning initiative with the purpose of promoting work-integrated learning experiences for students by providing an opportunity for students to engage in work-based academic programs with public and private sector employers, such as internships, externships, and apprenticeships. SHB 2686 focused solely on High School and Beyond Plans and included language regarding dual credit programs & career opportunities.

JLARC staff status review

JLARC staff summary of legislative action

Newly Issued 2017 Recommendations

Correctional Industries: Planning, pricing and market share

Released May 4, 2017

About the Audit

In Washington, about one third of all inmates released will re-offend or violate conditions of their release within 5 years and return to the correctional system. The Correctional Industries (CI) program offers inmates a chance to gain skills that make it more likely they will find jobs later. This performance audit analyzed the practices of the CI program and found that applying leading practices would help CI more effectively plan for and manage successful industries, and set competitive prices that achieve sufficient profit for reinvestment.

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should clarify RCW 72.09 to explain how CI should measure compliance with unfair competition restrictions for its Class 2 industries.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Reducing Costs through Faster Medicaid Income Verification

Released October 10, 2017

About the Audit

This performance audit examined whether the Healthcare Authority (HCA) could reduce spending on benefits for people who do not qualify for those benefits by more quickly verifying the income of Medicaid clients. While HCA is verifying income, the enrollee receives benefits. HCA stops purchasing benefits if the client's verified income exceeds the federal limit. HCA had a significant backlog of income verifications during FY2017 due to an increase in enrollment and no increase in verification staff. While HCA began to improve verification processing productivity, the audit determined that HCA could further reduce the amount of benefits purchased for ineligible clients and provide cost savings for the state by hiring additional verification workers starting in July 2018.

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should provide HCA with funding in FY2019 to increase the number of agency verification staff.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
ESSB 6032	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Comments

ESSB 6032 provided funding for 15 FTEs.

Leading Practices for the State's Secondary Career & Technical Education Programs

Released December 19, 2017

About the Audit

This performance audit investigates the coordination of agencies involved in career and technical education programs (CTE) and recommends clarifying statutes and improving coordination, oversight, and cooperation across Washington's career and technical education system. The audit found that CTE courses offered in Washington's public schools with the highest enrollment could more strongly align with high wage, high demand occupational areas. The report makes recommendations to the Legislature, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, and the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC).

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should require OSPI to work with the State Board of Education to establish a model course framework required for all students in the 7th or 8th grade that: a) teaches students about multiple career paths that include post secondary career and technical education, apprenticeships, military, and 4-year professional opportunities, along with the educational costs and anticipation incomes that accompany each; b) inform students about dual credit opportunities that exist within CTE programs; c) includes the development of students' high school and beyond plans; d) incorporates the improved career bridge website or other comprehensive career guidance tools.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
E2SHB 1600	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SHB 2686	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Comments

E2SHB 1600 established the work-integrated learning initiative. The purpose is to promote work-integrated learning experiences for students by providing an opportunity for students to engage in work-based academic programs with public and private sector employers (e.g., internships, externships, apprenticeships).

SHB 2686 focused solely on High School and Beyond Plans and included language regarding dual credit programs and career opportunities.

Leading Practices for the State's Secondary Career & Technical Education Programs

Released December 19, 2017

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should require the workforce board to establish a work group that is funded by the Legislature and consists of staff from the workforce board, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). This work group should be responsible for establishing: a) a complete inventory of all active articulation agreements maintained in a centralized database which must be used by all districts and colleges; b) a list of all CTE programs across districts and colleges to help identify articulation opportunities; c) statewide articulation agreements for those courses offering a good return on investment that incorporate common course numbering and lead to dual credit for use by all school districts and colleges; d) standards identifying key elements required for all unique and statewide articulation agreements; e) a structured process to increase regional coordination of secondary and post secondary advisory committees to more effectively and efficiently engage employers; f) a method to coordinate data sharing and analysis using: employment security department data on occupation wages and growth forecasts, biennial business surveys conducted by the workforce board, labor market demand data collected by colleges and the SBCTC that drives post secondary CTE programs and courses.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
HB 1313	✓				
SB 6486	✓				

Comments

HB 1313 would have established the Applied Learning Advisory Committee, which was to consist of staff from OSPI, SBCTC, Workforce Board. The Advisory Committee would have been tasked to examine and inventory applied learning programs that operate in the state.

SB 6486 would have convened a work group composed of legislative members, industry representatives, apprenticeship model experts, and agency representatives to review existing registered apprenticeship programs and recommend policies to increase youth and adult apprenticeships.

Leading Practices for the State's Secondary Career & Technical Education Programs

Released December 19, 2017

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should require the work group to: a) define how to prioritize the establishment of new statewide articulation agreements. These agreements should: be implemented through a deliberative process between faculty in school districts and colleges, begin with the most common career and technical education (CTE) courses including those with curricula that can be easily tied to nationally recognized industry standards, incorporate curricula that are established in partnerships with the Centers of Excellence and businesses where applicable, require reviews at least once every 3 years to update the curricula; b) develop and report performance measures to the Legislature that show: the increase in the number of CTE college paths (articulated dual credit courses multiplied by the number of colleges that accept them), cost savings achieved across the secondary and post secondary systems.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should revise RCW Chapter 28A.700 to: a) define the term "skills gap" as used in RCW 28A.700.010(2)(a), which requires districts to demonstrate how their CTE plans help address the skills gap. Clarifying this term would potentially affect how and the extent by which high demand occupation drives CTE programming. This new definition should apply consistently across agencies. b) define the term "high wage" as used in the definition of CTE (RCW 28A.700.010(5)), which in part defines CTE as "a plan or program of courses that enable options for students to obtain high wage employment preparation." This new definition should apply consistently across agencies. c) Require districts to submit evidence of high local labor demand for existing CTE programs when OSPI re-approves them every 5 years.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2018 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Previously Unresolved 2016 Recommendations

Administrative Appeals

Released May 11, 2016

About the Audit

More than 100,000 administrative appeals are conducted by 28 Washington state agencies every year. Administrative appeals processes are working as intended in Washington, and the state agencies we evaluated are managing appeals effectively. However, processes differ among agencies and can be intimidating for some participants. SAO makes three recommendations that the Legislature amend parts of the Administrative Procedure Act.

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should add a new section to either Part II or Part IV of Chapter RCW 34.05 regarding the role of informal guidance by clarifying: a) in what circumstances hearing officers may apply informal guidance in developing administrative decisions, b) whether managers may require hearing officers to apply informal guidance, c) if hearing officers may apply informal guidance, clarify whether the hearing officers may apply written guidance, unwritten guidance, or both.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2017 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Medical Discipline

Released November 7, 2016

About the Audit

In Washington, medical doctors and physician assistants (PAs) are licensed and regulated by the Medical Quality Assurance Commission (MQAC), while osteopathic doctors and PAs are licensed and regulated by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery (BOMS). This performance audit examined the process by which MQAC and BOMS assess and investigate complaints; how they communicate with the people who have filed complaints, those accused of misconduct, and the general public; and how they ensure sanctions are completed. SAO identified areas of improvement for both boards, including three recommendations to the Legislature for statutory changes.

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should merge BOMS and MQAC into one board by adding three osteopathic physicians to the commission.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2017 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

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HB 1431	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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Comments

In 2017, the Legislature made a different policy choice when they passed HB 1431. HB 1431 reaffirmed the current status of the Board of Osteopathic Medicine by adding more members to the Board and increasing member compensation.

Medical Discipline

Released November 7, 2016

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should modify the Uniform Disciplinary Act so all healthcare professionals must post information in a prominent location about where to file complaints.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2017 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Previously Unresolved 2014 Recommendations

Performance Measures in Economic Development Programs: Opportunity to enhance transparency and improve processes

Released October 2, 2014

About the Audit

The audit assessed the Associate Development Organization (ADO) program, which provides economic development services tailored to meet local needs. Through this program, the Department of Commerce manages \$3 million in annual grant support to 34 county-designated ADOs. The main questions the audit sought to answer was whether it is technically feasible to isolate the ADOs' impact on economic outcomes and whether the performance measurement practices used by Commerce to manage ADO contacts is aligned with statutory intent and leading practices. The audit found that the Legislature should establish clear goals for the ADO program and that the ADOs develop a more robust performance measurement system. The audit included two recommendations to the Legislature.

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should establish clear goals for the program in consultation with Commerce and ADOs.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2015 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2016 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2017 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Performance Measures in Economic Development Programs: Opportunity to enhance transparency and improve processes

Released October 2, 2014

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should reform reporting requirements for both Commerce and the ADO program.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2015 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2016 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

2017 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Debt-Offset Programs: A tool to help Washington collect delinquent debt

Released December 4, 2014

About the Audit

This audit examined whether implementing a state debt-offset program and participating in the U.S. Treasury's State Reciprocal Program can help Washington collect delinquent business debt. The audit also identified leading practices other states recommend for developing and implementing effective debt-offset programs, and the changes Washington needs to make to put the programs into action. The audit included four recommendations to the Legislature.

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should authorize state agencies to require federal taxpayer identification numbers (TINs) and share payment and debt data for the purposes of conducting state and federal debt offsets, allowing individual agencies to immediately enhance existing collection efforts.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2015 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2016 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2017 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Debt-Offset Programs: A tool to help Washington collect delinquent debt

Released December 4, 2014

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should authorize state agencies to participate in the U.S. Treasury's State Reciprocal Program.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2015 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2016 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2017 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Debt-Offset Programs: A tool to help Washington collect delinquent debt

Released December 4, 2014

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

The Legislature should establish a workgroup with a directive to develop a proposal for the design and implementation of a state and the federal reciprocal debt-offset programs. To efficiently and effectively implement and administer the programs, the workgroup should:

- Design the programs using the leading practices recommended by other states and the U.S. Treasury's State Reciprocal Program requirements;
- Identify ways for agencies to obtain accurate federal TINs;
- Identify necessary process changes and system upgrades;
- Estimate necessary resources;
- Identify statutory changes; and
- Report its progress to the Legislature and the Governor's Office by June 30, 2016.

Implementation Status :

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Adopted as presented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Addressed with different approach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Made different policy choice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bills introduced on topic but not adopted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other circumstances |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Related or no information |

2015 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2016 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2017 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.

Debt-Offset Programs: A tool to help Washington collect delinquent debt

Released December 4, 2014

SAO Recommendation to the Legislature

Taking into account the workgroup's June 2016 report, the Legislature should authorize a single comprehensive statute to offset debts owed by businesses with payments to those businesses.

Implementation Status :

- Adopted as presented
- Addressed with different approach
- Made different policy choice
- Bills introduced on topic but not adopted
- Other circumstances
- Related or no information

2015 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

2016 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

2017 Related Legislation

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No Related Legislation

2018 Related Legislation

Bill #	Bill Introduced	Out of Fiscal Committee	Out of House of Origin	Passed Legislature	Signed by Governor
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No Related Legislation

Comments

No legislative action was taken related to this recommendation.