

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Beyer, Edwards C., Girod, Thatcher, Riley
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	1/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Secretary of State to accept reports of waste, inefficiency, or abuse that are submitted other than through the Government Waste Hotline. Stipulates that the identity of a person making a report by any method is to be kept confidential.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current operation of Audits Division website for reporting waste and abuse
- Level of anonymity of persons making allegations
- Number of reports received and investigated per year

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Fraud, Waste and Abuse Government Waste Hotline (800-336-8218) was authorized by the Legislative Assembly with the passage of House Bill 2554 (1995) to provide public employees and citizens an avenue for reporting waste, inefficiency, or abuse in state programs. The law provides confidentiality for any person making a report through the hotline. Furthermore, the report of any resulting investigation remains confidential unless the allegations are substantiated. Upon completion of an investigation that does substantiate a caller's report, the Secretary of State Audits Division is required to prepare a written report, which becomes a public record. The division's report, in accordance with the confidentiality provision, does not include the caller's identity.

House Bill 2088 expands the directive to the Audits Division to provide that reports of waste or abuse received by methods other than the Government Waste Hotline are to be processed in the same manner as those received via the hotline. Persons making reports by other methods, such as by mail or via a website created by the Secretary of State for that purpose, would be granted the same confidentiality protection currently provided to those reporting via the hotline.