

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Governor to assign state agency responsibility for developing plan to ensure written documents produced by executive department conform to plain language standards. Defines plain language standards. Directs appointed agency to adopt plan by November 1, 2007 and report to Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Applying plain language standards to statute and rules
- Money saved through implementation of plain language in government correspondence
- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: HB 2702A would assign an agency in the executive department responsibility for developing a plan to ensure written documents conform to plain language standards. It outlines plain language as follows: using everyday words that convey meanings clearly and directly (for example, changing the word “abeyance” to “suspension”); using present tense and active voice; using short, simple sentences; defining only those words that cannot be properly explained or qualified in the text of the document; using type of a readable size; and using layout and spacing that separate the paragraphs and sections of the document from one another.