

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Conger, Matthews, Sheehan, Smith J., Holvey, Whisnant
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Cameron
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jan Nordlund, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/8, 3/31

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs agency that wishes to retain a vacant position to report to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) director the reasons why. Requires the director to prohibit the agency from filling the position if the director determines the reasons are insufficient. Requires the director to report quarterly to the Legislative Assembly on actions taken regarding vacant positions. Excludes from vacancy reporting requirement the Legislative Assembly, courts, Public Defense Services Commission, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Possibility that agencies would imprudently hire to avoid losing the position
- Limiting the scope to General Fund agencies
- Whether agencies use money not spent on a vacant position for other budget items
- Whether vacant positions are treated as a budget cushion or a slush fund

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the original measure.

**BACKGROUND:** As of January 3, 2011, there were 4,475 vacant, non-seasonal positions in state agencies, representing 11 percent of the state workforce. Of those vacancies, 2,389 have been vacant for more than six months.

Under existing statute, agencies must report to DAS any position that has remained vacant for a continuous six-month period and include a report on the position as part of its estimate submitted to DAS and the Legislative Fiscal Office of the funds required for activities to be carried out. DAS may consider the vacancy and reduce the amount allotted to the agency.