

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Cameron, Clem, Matthews, Sheehan, Smith J., Weidner, Holvey, Whisnant

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits a state agency from retaining and filling a long-term vacant position if the director of the Department of Administrative Services determines reasons are insufficient. Requires the director to report quarterly to the Senate President, House Speaker, and the Legislative Assembly.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current attention on vacant positions
- Whether additional authority is being given to the executive branch

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: As of January 31, 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 the Department of Administrative Services (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.

During the 2011 session, the Joint Ways and Means Committee eliminated 469 positions due to the roll-up of allotment reductions and another 534 positions that were vacant, reviewed, and determined to be no longer necessary.