



## **SENATE BILL 925**

*Comments by Gil Riddell, AOC Policy Director,  
to the Senate Finance & Revenue Committee, May 13, 2015.*

### **AOC urges the Senate Finance & Revenue Committee to make full use of its excellent staff and pass Senate Bill 925.**

It is becoming clear that any movement toward comprehensive public finance reform needs a new starting point. In very recent history, we have seen the broadly representative and thorough-going Task Force on Comprehensive Revenue Restructuring (Jan. 2009) approve thoughtful recommendations that now gather dust. Former Senator Frank Morse struggled for several sessions to get movement on his sensible plan, but finally retired in frustration. The interest shown by Chair Mark Hass and Representative Tobias Read in genuine comprehensive reform has been encouraging, but distractions abound this session.

Paul Warner, the Legislative Revenue Officer and former State Economist, has developed a staff of knowledgeable and talented economists who are clearly able to gather an array of options for tax reform worth consideration. It would be very hard to find a more unbiased group in the business. Dr. Warner's recommendations would carry the necessary weight to kick off the discussion again.

Our broken public finance system cannot heal itself. SB 925 is an excellent idea, and should be adopted and pursued.