



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Governor's Bill No. 6374

LCO No. 2713

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Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:

REP. CAFERO, 142nd Dist.

SEN. MCKINNEY, 28th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the
2 Office of Accountability which shall (1) act to detect and prevent fraud,
3 waste and abuse in the management of state personnel, the use and
4 disposition of state property and the collection, disbursement and
5 expenditure of state and federal funds administered by state
6 governmental agencies and may investigate and audit state agencies to
7 achieve these purposes, and (2) oversee the administration of quality
8 assurance measures to ensure that state services are provided in a
9 timely and professional manner utilizing industry-appropriate best
10 practices. The Office of Accountability shall be within the Office of
11 Policy and Management for administrative purposes only.

12 (b) The Chief Accountability Officer shall be the department head of
13 the Office of Accountability. The Governor shall appoint as Chief

14 Accountability Officer a person with expertise in at least two of the
15 following areas: Law, state government, ethics, accounting or
16 contracting. No person may serve as Chief Accountability Officer for
17 more than ten years.

18 (c) The Chief Accountability Officer shall work through Agency
19 Accountability Officers and may require such officers to attend
20 training sessions within available appropriations to ensure that the
21 same standards of accountability and transparency are maintained
22 throughout state government.

23 (d) The Chief Accountability Officer, in cooperation with Agency
24 Accountability Officers, shall audit state agency practices, records and
25 accounts to (1) eliminate waste and inefficiency in state government;
26 (2) ensure that state resources, including computers, vehicles, phones
27 and other equipment, are used properly and in an appropriate manner
28 for the legitimate purposes of state government; (3) achieve economic
29 efficiencies; (4) ensure that state and federal funds administered by an
30 agency are properly accounted for and used for proper purposes; and
31 (5) ensure that each agency fulfills its statutory mission.

32 (e) The Chief Accountability Officer, when auditing an agency's
33 practices, records and accounts, shall review recent audits of the
34 agency conducted by the Auditors of Public Accounts and shall
35 determine whether any recommendations presented by the auditors
36 have been implemented. If such recommendations have not been
37 implemented, the Chief Accountability Officer, in consultation with
38 the Agency Accountability Officer, shall develop a plan to implement
39 the recommendations.

40 (e) The Chief Accountability Officer shall establish a quality
41 assurance program to be implemented through state agencies to
42 ensure that state services are provided in a timely, efficient and
43 professional manner, meet the needs of agency clients and the public,
44 produce the anticipated outcomes and utilize state resources prudently
45 and effectively.

46 (f) The Chief Accountability Officer may apply to a panel of three
47 Superior Court judges appointed by the Chief Court Administrator for
48 the issuance of a subpoena whenever the Chief Accountability Officer
49 deems it necessary to obtain information which is not otherwise
50 available and which is needed in the performance of the Chief
51 Accountability Officer's duties. Any person aggrieved by the issuance
52 of a subpoena by the Chief Accountability Officer may petition the
53 Superior Court for relief.

54 (g) Upon completion of an investigation or audit concerning a state
55 agency, the Chief Accountability Officer may make recommendations
56 to the agency concerning the Chief Accountability Officer's findings
57 and shall work with the Agency Accountability Officer of the agency
58 to ensure that such recommendations are implemented in a timely
59 manner.

60 (h) The Chief Accountability Officer may adopt regulations
61 necessary to implement the provisions of this section, in accordance
62 with chapter 54 of the general statutes, and may, within available
63 appropriations, employ such persons as the Chief Accountability
64 Officer shall deem necessary to fulfill the duties of the Office of
65 Accountability pursuant to this section.

66 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The head of each state
67 agency shall appoint an Agency Accountability Officer who shall serve
68 as the liaison between the agency and the Office of Accountability.

69 (b) The Agency Accountability Officer shall be responsible for (1)
70 providing access to, and documentation of, agency records and
71 personnel as required by the Chief Accountability Officer, (2)
72 cooperating with the Chief Accountability Officer in the conduct of
73 investigations and audits of the agency, and (3) ensuring that
74 recommendations of the Chief Accountability Officer concerning
75 agency operations are implemented in a timely and effective manner.
76 The Agency Accountability Officer shall report to the Chief
77 Accountability Officer on the implementation of any such

78 recommendations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]