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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 6496**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING TEST BED TECHNOLOGIES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill transfers administrative responsibility for the State Agency Energy Efficiency or Renewable Energy Technology Test Program from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner.

Under current law, the commissioner administering the program may direct state agencies to test technologies, products, or processes (“test subjects”) that she finds would promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, or renewable energy technology by using them in agency operations on a trial basis. The bill also allows the commissioner to do this if the test subject would promote cost savings or organizational efficiency for the state government. It correspondingly specifies that the purpose of these test programs is to validate the test subject’s effectiveness in reducing the state government’s costs and increasing its organizational efficiency.

By law, if the test subject meets certain criteria and the commissioner testing it determines that the test subject sufficiently meets its purposes, then he or she may ask the DAS commissioner to procure it for state agencies without adhering to certain statutory competitive bidding requirements. If the DAS commissioner finds that the test subject is feasible in state agency operations and would not detrimentally affect them, then she may direct state agencies to accept the test subject regardless of the requirements in the law that regulates state purchases.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2023)