

HB 1599 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

SPONSOR: Ervin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Budget by a vote of 13 to 10.

This bill establishes the Joint Committee on Waste, Fraud, and Abuse which will be composed of seven members each of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill requires continuing studies and analysis of government inefficiencies; determining appropriate methods to obtain relevant data at least biennially from each state entity in regard to their function, duties, and performance; and recommending any needed changes to statutory law, rules, or policies. A report of the committee's activities and recommendations must be submitted to the General Assembly by January 15 of each year with copies to the appropriate entities.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the members of the General Assembly were elected to have this responsibility. The Office of the State Auditor does a fine job, but the bill will give the members of the committee an opportunity to do an analysis on all state agencies to determine if there are inefficiencies. It will be a joint effort by both chambers that will prepare an annual report of its findings and recommendations.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Ervin.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Marc Webb, Legislative Analyst