

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6455

---

As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations, February 1, 1996

**Title:** An act relating to the citizen whistleblower act.

**Brief Description:** Adopting the citizen whistleblower act.

**Sponsors:** Senators Heavey, Winsley, Rasmussen, Oke, Franklin, Haugen and Kohl; by request of Governor Lowry and State Auditor.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations: 1/25/96, 2/1/96 [DPS-WM].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6455 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Sheldon, Vice Chair; Goings, Hale, Heavey, McCaslin and Winsley.

**Staff:** Rod McAulay (786-7754)

**Background:** There are no specific civil remedies addressing wrongdoings involving claims against the state and protecting private employees who blow the whistle on such wrongdoing other than the existing general criminal laws against fraud and theft; common law civil claims such as those for conversion of property, breach of contract, and wrongful discharge; and state employee disciplinary procedures. It is believed that establishing a special civil remedy and providing protection for private employees who disclose fraud will serve as a deterrent against such activity and provide a more effective means of prosecution.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** A civil penalty of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$10,000 plus treble damages is established for persons who knowingly: