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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6274**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2014 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Hill, Becker, Mullet, Honeyford, Bailey, Angel, Braun, and Tom)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/14.

1        AN ACT Relating to providing oversight of state agency tortious  
2        conduct through legislative hearings; adding a new section to chapter  
3        4.92 RCW; and creating a new section.

4        BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that one of its most  
6        important roles is oversight of state agencies, particularly when it  
7        comes to tortious conduct of the agency that results in harm to  
8        vulnerable Washington citizens.

9        This act requires legislative hearings on tort payouts exceeding  
10       one million dollars. It is the intent of this act that such hearings  
11       will provide an opportunity for legislative review of the agency's  
12       actions, including an examination of what changes could be made to  
13       prevent such harm in the future.

14       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 4.92 RCW  
15       to read as follows:

16       Whenever a payment of one million dollars or more is made from the  
17       liability account under RCW 4.92.130 for a settlement or judgment for  
18       the tortious conduct of the state's officers, employees, or volunteers,

1 the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the senate and house of  
2 representatives shall, within twelve months of the payment, conduct a  
3 joint hearing for the purposes of:

4 (1) Receiving a report from the attorney general, the office of  
5 risk management, and the agency on which behalf the payment was made.  
6 The report shall describe the factual events and legal context that  
7 resulted in the payment; and

8 (2) Considering potential modifications to state practices and  
9 policies to prevent or reduce future state liability for tortious  
10 conduct.

11 The information presented at the hearing shall be consistent with  
12 the protections afforded by the attorney/client privilege and the  
13 confidentiality of attorney work product.

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