**Legislative History of SAO Request Bill**

* **Similar bill heard in 2020 session – No opposition in committee, Introduced by Chair Hunt, co-sponsored by Vice Chair Kuderer, Ranking Minority Member (Sen. Zeiger) and Sen. Hasegawa.**
* **This legislation passed out of committee with no opposing testimony.**
* **House version of 2020 bill passed 97-0 and 98-0 on last House Floor votes.**

**Major Actions of the Bill**

* **Requires SAO to set standards for loss reporting by state and local governments.**
* **Saves local governments money by removing outdated filing requirements.**
* **Saves State costs of filing certain reports that are easily accessible on SAO website.**
* **Removes obsolete provisions of law including sections that contradict people’s Initiative 900.**

**Itemized Changes to RCW 43.09**

**Section 1**. –  **Requires SAO to set standards for state agencies and local governments to report known or suspected loss of public funds or assets. This covers everything from loss of a cell phone to the fraud at ESD.**

**Section 2**. –  **Removes outdated separate filing requirement for local government on expenditures for labor relations consultants. This information is now readily available from local government on their websites and by request. Saves local governments costs of filing redundant reports.**

**Section 3**. –  **Removes requirement for a superfluous report on audits conducted by SAO. (All SAO audits are published in real-time on the web and available on-demand.) SAO operates an excellent website with real-time search capabilities to track all audits. Saves the expense of publication of unnecessary report.**

**Section 4**. –  **Amends statutory requirement to perform biennial performance audits of long-term in-home care program to allow other audit types. Adds requirement to consult with affected disability and aging stakeholder groups on audits.**

**Section 5**. – **Removes a needless reporting requirement for a review of local government tax levies that services no purpose. (The SAO has no authority to audit tax levies.)**

 **Removes obsolete sections of old law that contradict Initiative 900. These sections of law were never used since I-900 was passed overwhelmingly by the People before the legislative act could be implemented. The State Auditor’s office has always followed I-900 as the prevailing law in the conduct of performance audits. This section simply repeals the unused sections.**