



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

In Case You Missed It

February 12, 2008

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:
**HOUSE RE-PASSES ACCOUNTABILITY BILL,
YET REPUBLICANS CONTINUE CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR**

The House today passed HB 3613 to establish a “Committee on Performance Excellence” to help state agencies improve government performance. The Governor vetoed a similar bill from the 2007 regular session.

“We’re talking about government accountability and discipline, and looking at ways to make our government work better and smarter. [HB 3613] offers a way for the public to keep an eye on their state government. The committee will help us set up objective and measureable goals and reward programs that meet those expectations.” (Rep. Kim Thatcher, R-Keizer, House Floor Session, 02/12/08)

While supportive of HB 3613, House Republicans continued to call for the creation of a Legislative Audit Office, independent of the Executive Branch.

“I’m a yes because [HB 3613 is] a baby step in the right direction...In the future, I really hope this body will have the political will, and will use your guts, and create a legislative audits office so that you can have get the information that you want to have, when you want to have it, about the performance of our agencies and really have the ability to hold the Executive Branch’s feet to the fire, because right now you don’t have that. (Rep. Jerry Krummel, R-Wilsonville, House Floor Session, 02/12/08)

House Republicans have worked to establish a legislative auditor since 2005.

“Back in 2005, while I was the Speaker of the House, we introduced a bill that would have provided an audit function for the legislative branch to go in and audit state agencies...Until this Legislature has the ability to go in independently and audit books, we are never going to get our arms around the issue of accountability in state government...Right now we are at the mercy of numbers we receive from the executive branch to balance our budgets, and frankly they’re not always accurate.” (Rep. Karen Minnis, R-Wood Village, House Floor Session, 02/12/08)

On June 20, 2007, House Democrats on a party-line vote opted to keep the Legislative Audits bill locked in committee for the 2007 session. House and Senate Republicans have made the creation of a Legislative Audit Office a top priority for the 2008 session. SJR 41 is awaiting action in the Senate Education and General Government Committee.