



JULIE LASSA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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LASSA RE-INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO AUDIT STATE AGENCIES *Provision requires performance and management audits of agencies and programs*

Madison – State Representative Julie Lassa (D-Stevens Point) announced today that she has re-introduced legislation that will help streamline state government, increase government accountability to taxpayers, and save tax dollars. The bill requires the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct performance and management audits of state agencies and their programs.

“With a \$3.2 billion dollar budget deficit in the next biennium there is a real need for this legislation,” said Lassa. “As legislators it is our responsibility to ensure that state agencies are using taxpayers’ dollars efficiently, programs are serving citizens effectively, and state government is accountable to the people.”

Under the audit proposal, the non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau would conduct a management and performance audit of every large program within state agencies that employ more than 100 full time employees, at least once every five years. The audit must include an appraisal of all management practices, operating procedures and organizational structures related to the program. The bill also requires the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct a management and performance audit of supervisor to staff ratios for the entire agency.

“It’s astonishing that with a state budget of \$47 billion that there is no mechanism in place to regularly audit state government to make sure that our tax dollars are being spent wisely. That’s ridiculous,” said Lassa.

“The audit bill will help the legislature find existing problems within the agencies and give us the opportunity to fix them and save taxpayer money,” said Lassa. “The legislation will also give us the opportunity to highlight successes in state government.”

Lassa’s proposal was included in last session’s budget repair bill but it was vetoed by then Governor Scott McCallum. The original Assembly bill had bi-partisan support with over 30 legislators signing on as co-sponsors.

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