Overview

Requires the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to establish and promote a program to solicit proposals from state employees and former state employees for ways to reduce the cost of operating state government or for ways of providing the state better or more efficient service. The program would include potential for sharing savings with employees or former employees.

1  Whistle-blower law. Amends the "whistle-blower" law to prohibit an employer from discriminating against a state employee or former state employee who submits a proposal to the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation under this act.

2  Whistle-blower law. Provides that the identity of a state employee or former state employee is private data to the extent provided in section 3, subdivision 6 of this bill.

3  Proposals.

   Subd. 1. Program establishment. Requires the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to establish and promote a program to solicit proposals from state employees and former state employees for ways to reduce the cost of operating state government or for ways of providing the state better or more efficient service. The program must include potential for sharing savings for employees or former employees.

   Subd. 2. Process. Provides that state employees or former state employees may submit proposals to the board for reducing the cost of state government or for providing better or more efficient service. The board must decide how to act on each proposal. The board must determine which proposals warrant consideration for award of shared savings payments. Specifies criteria to guide the board in this determination.

   If the board determines a proposal does not warrant shared savings consideration, the board shall forward the proposal to the appropriate state agency for review and comment. If the board determines the proposal does warrant shared savings consideration, it shall seek review and comments from the appropriate state agency to analyze feasibility of the
proposal and the extent to which potential savings can be measured.

**Subd. 3. Shared savings plan.** Specifies required elements of a shared savings plan, including a method of documenting cost reductions attributable to the plan and an agreement to share a percentage of documented savings with the employees. Provides guidelines for the percentage of savings to be shared, ranging from 20 percent for annual savings under $1,000, up to a maximum of $100,000. The percentage to be shared applies only to one year of savings. Provides that a state employee represented by an exclusive representative may not receive payments, except as provided in a collective bargaining agreement.

**Subd. 4. Shared savings payments.** Provides that payments may be made only when the board determines that projected savings have been realized. This determination, and the calculation of the amount of savings to be shared, is at the sole discretion of the board. Requires payments to be made from funds appropriated for agency operations. Forbids payments to managers, unless the board determines the proposal involves matters outside the scope of the manager's normal job duties. Elected officials and commissioner may not receive payments.

**Subd. 5. Agency cooperation.** Requires state agencies to cooperate with the board.

**Subd. 6. Data practices.** Provides that the name of an employee or former employee submitting a suggestion is private. However, the person's name becomes public when a shared savings plan is approved by the board.

**Subd. 7. Report.** Requires the board to report annually on the program.

4 **Limit.** The board may approve up to ten shared savings plans until June 30, 2001.

5 **Effective date.** Effective the day following final enactment.