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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony

SB 590 – Public Information Act – Revisions

AFSCME Council 3 supports SB 590. It would both strengthen and provide clarity to the priority of public access to governmental records. The bill would give the Public Information Compliance Board (PIACB), greater collective knowledge through its new membership requirements, and greater enforcement ability. It would require agencies to more publicly provide their PIA policies and would provide greater transparency as a result of the bills reporting mechanism.

This legislation reflects issues raised in a report from the Office of the Attorney General which was required in last year's Joint Chairmen's Report. By expanding the role of the PIACB to include not just issues related to feeds, but also to include review of decisions by the Ombudsman, the bill would strengthen the process and its oversight.

This legislation will help guarantee transparency and oversight. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

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