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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony

HB 502 – Public Information Act - Revisions

Support

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 502. It would both strengthen and provide clarity to the priority of access to governmental records. The bill would give the Public Information Act Compliance Board (PIACB) greater knowledge by its 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 its reporting mechanism.

This legislation reflects 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 fees, but also an ability to review decisions by the Ombudsman, the bill will strengthen the oversight of the process.

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

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