S-3934.2

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**SENATE BILL 6517**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Keiser, Rolfes, Chase, Habib, Frockt, and Conway

AN ACT Relating to increasing equitable gender representation on state boards and commissions; adding a new section to chapter 43.06 RCW; and creating a new section.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature finds that there is substantial public support for policy measures aimed at promoting gender equity and fairness. It is important to ensure that state government promotes gender equity in the appointment process. The legislature further finds that information about gender representation on appointed boards and commissions is currently inadequate to determine whether progress is being made toward achieving gender equity.

Therefore, the legislature intends to increase gender equity in the composition of state boards and commissions by imposing benchmarks for female representation and gathering reports on the gender composition of state boards and commissions.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 43.06 RCW to read as follows:

(1) By December 1, 2016, the office of financial management shall submit to the governor and both houses of the legislature a report describing the gender composition of all boards and commissions in which the governor possesses appointment power and the boards of trustees of institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

(2) By January 1, 2022, each board and commission in which the governor possesses appointment power and each board of trustees of an institution of higher education must have no fewer than one-third of its membership comprising females and no fewer than one third of its membership comprising males. By December 1, 2022, the office of financial management shall submit to the governor and both houses of the legislature a report describing the gender composition of all boards and commissions in which the governor possesses appointment power and the boards of trustees of institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

(3) By January 1, 2032, each board and commission in which the governor possesses appointment power and each board of trustees of an institution of higher education must demonstrate substantial equity standards and have no fewer than one-third of its membership comprising females and no fewer than one-third of its membership comprising males. By December 1, 2032, the office of financial management shall submit to the governor and both houses of the legislature a report describing the gender composition of all boards and commissions in which the governor possesses appointment power and the boards of trustees of institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

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