
HOUSE BILL 1648

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Murray, Miloscia, Veloria, Lantz, Tokuda, Ruderman, Schual-Berke, McDermott and Santos

Read first time 01/31/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a task force to review the death
2 penalty; adding a new section to chapter 10.95 RCW; making
3 appropriations; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 10.95 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) A death penalty task force is hereby created for the purpose of
8 conducting a review of the existing statutes and court rules to
9 determine the following:

10 (a) The adequacy of the counsel and resources provided defendants
11 in capital offense cases;

12 (b) The uniformity of decision making by prosecuting attorneys in
13 terms of charging defendants with aggravated first degree murder and
14 the criteria in such decisions;

15 (c) The impact of race, ethnicity, gender, and economic status on
16 the likelihood of a defendant being charged with aggravated first
17 degree murder; and

1 (d) Whether there are revisions to existing statutes and court
2 rules which, if implemented, would decrease the likelihood of an
3 inappropriate imposition of the death penalty.

4 (2) The task force shall consist of eleven members. The membership
5 shall be appointed as follows:

6 (a) Two members appointed by the chief justice of the state supreme
7 court;

8 (b) Two members appointed by the president of the senate;

9 (c) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of
10 representatives;

11 (d) Two members appointed by the governor;

12 (e) Three members appointed by the president of the Washington
13 state bar association. Not more than one member shall be a current or
14 former prosecuting attorney. Not more than one member shall be an
15 attorney whose practice is primarily criminal defense and who has
16 experience in death penalty cases.

17 (3) The task force may conduct meetings, select officers, and
18 prescribe rules of procedure. The task force shall cooperate, act, and
19 function with legislative committees and executive agencies as
20 necessary to complete its business.

21 (4) Members of the task force shall serve without additional
22 compensation, but must be reimbursed for their travel expenses, in
23 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 44.04.120, incurred while attending
24 meetings of the task force, engaged on other task force business
25 authorized by the task force, or going to and coming from task force
26 meetings.

27 (5) The task force shall make a report, together with any
28 recommendations, to the legislature, governor, and supreme court not
29 later than January 1, 2003.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as
31 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
32 ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the office of the
33 administrator for the courts for the purposes of providing staffing and
34 support to the death penalty task force.

35 (2) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
36 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
37 2002, from the general fund to the office of the administrator for the

1 courts for the purposes of providing staffing and support to the death
2 penalty task force.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires January 1,
4 2003.

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