
HOUSE BILL 1832

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert, Shea, Haler, and McCaslin

Read first time 01/30/15. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a task force to determine the impacts
2 of adjusting the boundary lines of Washington and Oregon to create
3 two new states with one state east and one state west of the Cascade
4 mountain range; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that since
7 statehood, the lifestyles, culture, and economies of both Eastern and
8 Western Washington and Eastern and Western Oregon have been very
9 distinct with the similarities between Eastern Washington and Eastern
10 Oregon and Western Washington and Western Oregon being remarkably
11 conspicuous. Urbanization and rapid growth in the western portions of
12 both states has progressively heightened this divergence of cultural
13 and economic values from that of the eastern portions of the states.
14 The legislature further finds that a reconsideration of the state
15 boundary lines of Washington and Oregon in light of these divergences
16 and similarities is in order.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A legislative task force on state
18 boundaries is established to determine the legal and political
19 processes of making boundary line changes necessary to adjust the
20 state boundary lines of both Washington and Oregon in order to create

1 two new states from the territories of both states, with one state
2 east of the Cascade mountain range and one state west of the Cascade
3 mountain range, and to determine the various impacts of creating the
4 two new states based on the assumption that their creation would
5 occur.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The task force must determine: The
7 appropriateness and effect of using existing county boundary lines
8 versus creating new county boundary lines to form the two new states;
9 the population and land mass of each new state; the demographics of
10 each new state; the political distribution of each new state; the
11 distribution of each new state's assets, liabilities, and public
12 services; the economic impacts on each new state; the income levels
13 and tax bases of each new state; the impact on the provision of and
14 level of spending for education, health, and social services programs
15 in each new state; the distribution of jail and prison beds in each
16 new state; the distribution of various transportation modes, systems,
17 and infrastructure, and other infrastructure, service, and fiscal
18 impacts on each new state; and other considerations the task force
19 believes are relevant in defining or contrasting each new state.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The task force must consist of ten
21 members: Two from the Washington state house of representatives, one
22 from each major political caucus, appointed by the speaker of the
23 house of representatives; two from the Washington state senate, one
24 from each major political caucus, appointed by the president of the
25 senate; two from the Oregon state house of representatives, one from
26 each major political caucus, appointed by the speaker of the house of
27 representatives; two from the Oregon state senate, one from each
28 major political caucus, appointed by the president of the senate; and
29 one member from each state representing the governor and appointed by
30 the governor of each state. The legislative membership from each
31 state must include an equal number of representatives from both the
32 western and eastern portions of each state.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The task force must be jointly staffed by
34 the appropriate legislative committee staff from the house of
35 representatives and senate of each state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The task force must report its findings
2 and conclusions to the legislatures of both Washington and Oregon
3 state by September 30, 2015.

--- END ---