
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2759

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Doglio, Jenkins, Senn, Pettigrew, Dolan, Hudgins, Stanford, Chapman, Kagi, Appleton, Gregerson, Tarleton, Santos, Kilduff, Pollet, Macri, Frame, and Bergquist

Read first time 01/15/18. Referred to Committee on State Govt, Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the Washington state women's
2 commission; and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is important
5 to achieve equal opportunity for all of its citizens. The legislature
6 finds that women face unique problems and needs. For economic,
7 social, and historical reasons, a disproportionate number of women
8 find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from the benefits of equal
9 opportunity. It is the purpose of this chapter to improve the well-
10 being of women, by enabling them to participate fully in all fields
11 of endeavor, assisting them in obtaining governmental services, and
12 promoting equal compensation and fairness in employment for women.
13 The legislature also believes that addressing women's issues and
14 improving the well-being of women will have a positive impact on
15 larger societal issues. The legislature further finds that the
16 development of public policy and the efficient delivery of
17 governmental services to meet the needs of women can be improved by
18 establishing a focal point in state government for the interests of
19 women. Therefore, the legislature deems it necessary to establish in
20 statute the Washington state women's commission to further these
21 purposes. The commission shall address issues relevant to the

1 problems and needs of women, such as domestic violence, child care,
2 child support, sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, equal
3 compensation and job pathways opportunities in employment, and the
4 specific needs of women of color.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state women's commission is
6 established in the office of the governor. The commission shall be
7 administered by an executive director, who shall be appointed by, and
8 serve at the pleasure of, the governor. The governor shall set the
9 salary of the executive director. The executive director shall employ
10 the staff of the commission.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state women's
12 commission shall consist of nine members appointed by the governor
13 with the advice and consent of the senate.

14 (2) Two members of the senate, one from each of the two major
15 political parties, appointed by the president of the senate, and two
16 members of the house of representatives, one from each of the two
17 major political parties, appointed by the speaker of the house of
18 representatives, shall serve as advisory members.

19 (3) The governor shall consider nominations for membership based
20 upon maintaining a balanced and diverse distribution of ethnic,
21 geographic, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status,
22 and occupational representation, where practicable.

23 (4) All commission members shall serve at the pleasure of the
24 governor, but in no case may any member serve more than three years
25 without formal reappointment by the governor. All legislative
26 advisory members shall serve for a two-year term and the position of
27 any legislative advisory member shall be deemed vacated whenever such
28 member ceases to be a member of the house from which the member was
29 appointed. Of the persons initially appointed by the governor to the
30 commission, three shall be appointed to serve one year, three to
31 serve two years, and three to serve three years. Upon expiration of
32 such terms, subsequent appointments shall be for three years. Any
33 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
34 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as
35 the original appointments.

36 (5)(a) Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed for expenses
37 incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW
38 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

1 (b) Legislative members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred
2 in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

3 (6) A simple majority of the commission's membership constitutes
4 a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director of the Washington state
6 women's commission shall:

7 (1) Monitor state legislation and advocate for legislation
8 affecting women;

9 (2) Work with state agencies to assess programs and policies that
10 affect women;

11 (3) Include in the first biennial report submitted under section
12 5 of this act, an analysis of pay inequity based on gender among
13 individuals employed in the office of the governor, and, separately,
14 an analysis of pay inequity based on gender among employees included
15 in the Washington management service;

16 (4) Coordinate with the minority commissions and human rights
17 commission to address issues of mutual concern; and

18 (5) Work as a liaison between the public and private sector to
19 eliminate barriers to women's economic equity.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The Washington state women's
21 commission shall have the following duties:

22 (a) Actively recruit and maintain a list of names of qualified
23 women to fill vacancies on various boards and commissions;

24 (b) Provide a clearinghouse for information regarding both state
25 and federal legislation as it relates to the purpose of this chapter;

26 (c) Identify and define specific needs of women of color and
27 provide recommendations for addressing those needs in the biennial
28 report to the legislature and governor under (i) of this subsection;

29 (d) Consult with state agencies regarding the effect of agency
30 policies, procedures, practices, laws, and administrative rules on
31 the unique problems and needs of women. The commission shall also
32 advise such state agencies on the development and implementation of
33 comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing
34 on those problems and needs;

35 (e) Provide resource and referral information to agencies and the
36 public. The commission may gather data and disseminate information to
37 the public in order to implement the purposes of this chapter;

1 (f) Hold public hearings to gather input on issues related to the
2 unique problems and needs of women. The commission must include in
3 the biennial report submitted under (i) of this subsection the input
4 received and recommendations for addressing the problems and needs
5 discussed at the public hearings;

6 (g) Advocate for removal of legal and social barriers for women;

7 (h) Review best practices for sexual harassment policies and
8 training and provide recommendations to state agencies as they update
9 their sexual harassment policies. The commission shall also maintain
10 a file of sexual harassment policies that meet high quality standards
11 and make these files available for agency use; and

12 (i) Submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
13 legislature and the governor every two years detailing the
14 commission's activities. The report submitted must be in electronic
15 format pursuant to RCW 43.01.036.

16 (2) State agencies must provide appropriate and reasonable
17 assistance to the commission as needed, including gathering data and
18 information, in order for the commission to carry out the purpose of
19 this chapter.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The Washington state women's commission
21 shall have the following powers:

22 (1) Receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private
23 sources that are made for the use or benefit of the commission and to
24 expend the same or any income therefrom according to their terms and
25 the purpose of this chapter. The commission's executive director
26 shall make a report of such funds received from private sources to
27 the office of financial management on a current basis. Such funds
28 received from private sources shall not be applied to reduce or
29 substitute for the commission's budget as appropriated by the
30 legislature, but shall be applied and expended toward projects and
31 functions authorized by this chapter that were not funded by the
32 legislature.

33 (2) In carrying out its duties, the commission may establish such
34 relationships with public and private institutions, local
35 governments, private industry, community organizations, and other
36 segments of the general public as may be needed to promote equal
37 opportunity for women in government, education, economic security,
38 employment, and services.

1 (3) The commission may adopt rules and regulations pursuant to
2 chapter 34.05 RCW as shall be necessary to implement the purpose of
3 this chapter.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The Washington state women's commission
5 must provide staffing support to the interagency committee of state
6 employed women, a volunteer organization that aims to better the
7 lives of state employees by advising the governor and agencies on
8 policies that affect state employed women.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act
10 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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