

**E2SHB 1541** - H AMD 791

By Representative Farivar

**ADOPTED 02/06/2024**

1 On page 1, line 14, after "with" insert "direct"

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3 On page 2, line 30, after "experience" strike "and "lived  
4 experience"

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6 On page 3, line 4, after "legislative" strike "entities" and  
7 insert "entity"

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9 On page 3, line 7, after "disenfranchisement" strike ",,"

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11 On page 3, line 8, after "factors" strike ",,"

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13 On page 3, line 12, after "policy" strike "decision making" and  
14 insert "making processes"

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16 On page 3, beginning on line 37, after "to" strike "section 5  
17 of this act" and insert "section 117, chapter 475, Laws of 2023"

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19 On page 4, line 7, after "section," strike "beginning January 1,  
20 2025,"

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22 On page 5, beginning on line 16, strike all of section 5

23

24 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any  
25 internal references accordingly.

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27 On page 7, after line 2, insert the following:

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1       **"Sec. 7.** RCW 43.03.220 and 2022 c 245 s 2 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Any part-time board, commission, council, committee, or  
4 other similar group which is established by the executive,  
5 legislative, or judicial branch to participate in state government  
6 and which functions primarily in an advisory, coordinating, or  
7 planning capacity shall be identified as a class one group. Unless  
8 otherwise identified in law, all newly formed and existing groups  
9 are a class one group.

10       (2) Absent any other provision of law to the contrary, a stipend  
11 may be provided to a member of a class one group in accordance with  
12 this subsection.

13       (a) Subject to available funding, an agency may provide a  
14 stipend to individuals who are low income or have direct lived  
15 experience to support their participation in class one groups when  
16 the agency determines such participation is desirable in order to  
17 implement the principles of equity described in RCW 43.06D.020,  
18 provided that the individuals are not otherwise compensated for  
19 their attendance at meetings.

20       (b) Stipends shall not exceed \$200 for each day during which the  
21 member attends an official meeting or performs statutorily  
22 prescribed duties approved by the chairperson of the group.

23       (c) Individuals eligible for stipends under this section are  
24 eligible for reasonable allowances for child and adult care  
25 reimbursement, lodging, and travel expenses as provided in RCW  
26 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 in addition to stipend amounts.

27       (d) Nothing in this subsection creates an employment  
28 relationship, or any membership or qualification in any state or  
29 other publicly supported retirement system, for this or any other  
30 title due to the payment of a stipend, lodging and travel expenses,  
31 or child care expenses provided under this section where such a  
32 relationship, membership, or qualification did not already exist.

33       (e) As allowable by federal and state law, state agencies will  
34 minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the impact of stipends

1 and reimbursements on public assistance eligibility and benefit  
2 amounts.

3 (3) Except for members who qualify for a stipend under  
4 subsection (2) of this section, no person designated as a member of  
5 a class one board, commission, council, committee, or similar group  
6 may receive an allowance for subsistence, lodging, or travel  
7 expenses if the allowance cost is funded by the state general fund.  
8 Exceptions may be granted under RCW 43.03.049. Class one groups,  
9 when feasible, shall use an alternative means of conducting a  
10 meeting that does not require travel while still maximizing member  
11 and public participation and may use a meeting format that requires  
12 members to be physically present at one location only when necessary  
13 or required by law.

14 (4) Class one groups that are funded by sources other than the  
15 state general fund are encouraged to reduce travel, lodging, and  
16 other costs associated with conducting the business of the group  
17 including use of other meeting formats that do not require travel.

18 (5) Agencies exercising their authority to provide stipends and  
19 allowances under this section must follow the guidelines established  
20 by the office of equity pursuant to RCW 43.03.270.

21 (6) For purposes of this section:

22 (a) "~~Lived~~) Direct lived experience" means direct personal  
23 experience in the subject matter being addressed by the board,  
24 commission, council, committee, or other similar group.

25 (b) "Low income" means an individual whose income is not more  
26 than 400 percent of the federal poverty level, adjusted for family  
27 size."

28  
29 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any  
30 internal references accordingly.

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32 On page 7, line 3, after "through" strike "4 and 7" and insert "6"  
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34 On page 7, beginning on line 5, strike all of section 9

1  
2       Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any  
3 internal references accordingly.  
4  
5       Correct the title.  
6

EFFECT:     Removes a section that was included as a budget proviso in 2023 c 475 s 117, which requires the Office of Equity to: (1) consult with certain state boards and commissions to identify issues related to access and meaningful participation in stakeholder engagement, and (2) develop a toolkit on best practices for supporting meaningful engagement of underrepresented individuals with direct lived experience participating on statutory entities.

Changes references to "lived experience" to "direct lived experience" and makes corresponding changes to the statute on compensation for class one groups.

Makes other technical or grammatical corrections.

Removes the null and void clause.

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