

EHB 2759 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections

NOT ADOPTED 03/01/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

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

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state women's commission is
26 established in the office of the governor. The commission shall be
27 administered by an executive director, who shall be appointed by, and
28 serve at the pleasure of, the governor. The governor shall set the
29 salary of the executive director. The executive director shall employ
30 the staff of the commission.

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

4 (2) The governor shall consider nominations for membership based
5 upon maintaining a balanced and diverse distribution of ethnic,
6 geographic, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status,
7 and occupational representation, where practicable.

8 (3) All commission members shall serve at the pleasure of the
9 governor, but in no case may any member serve more than three years
10 without formal reappointment by the governor. All legislative
11 advisory members shall serve for a two-year term and the position of
12 any legislative advisory member shall be deemed vacated whenever such
13 member ceases to be a member of the house from which the member was
14 appointed. Of the persons initially appointed by the governor to the
15 commission, three shall be appointed to serve one year, three to
16 serve two years, and three to serve three years. Upon expiration of
17 such terms, subsequent appointments shall be for three years. Any
18 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
19 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as
20 the original appointments.

21 (4) Two members of the senate, one from each of the two major
22 political parties, appointed by the president of the senate, and two
23 members of the house of representatives, one from each of the two
24 major political parties, appointed by the speaker of the house of
25 representatives, shall serve as advisory members.

26 (5)(a) Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed for expenses
27 incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW
28 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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

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

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

35 (1) Monitor state legislation and advocate for legislation
36 affecting women;

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

1 (3) Coordinate with the minority commissions and human rights
2 commission to address issues of mutual concern; and

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

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

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

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

11 (c) Identify and define specific needs of women of color and
12 provide recommendations for addressing those needs in the biennial
13 report to the legislature and governor under (j) of this subsection;

14 (d) Consult with state agencies regarding the effect of agency
15 policies, procedures, practices, laws, and administrative rules on
16 the unique problems and needs of women. The commission shall also
17 advise such state agencies on the development and implementation of
18 comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing
19 on those problems and needs;

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

23 (f) Hold public hearings to gather input on issues related to the
24 unique problems and needs of women. The commission must include in
25 the biennial report submitted under (j) of this subsection the input
26 received and recommendations for addressing the problems and needs
27 discussed at the public hearings;

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

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

34 (i) Review and make recommendations to the legislature on
35 strategies to increase the number of women serving on for-profit
36 corporate boards with gross income of five million dollars or more;
37 and

38 (j) Submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
39 legislature and the governor every two years detailing the

1 commission's activities. The report submitted must be in electronic
2 format pursuant to RCW 43.01.036.

3 (2) State agencies must provide appropriate and reasonable
4 assistance to the commission as needed, including gathering data and
5 information, in order for the commission to carry out the purpose of
6 this chapter.

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

9 (1) Receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private
10 sources that are made for the use or benefit of the commission and to
11 expend the same or any income therefrom according to their terms and
12 the purpose of this chapter. The commission's executive director
13 shall make a report of such funds received from private sources to
14 the office of financial management on a regular basis. Such funds
15 received from private sources shall not be applied to reduce or
16 substitute for the commission's budget as appropriated by the
17 legislature, but shall be applied and expended toward projects and
18 functions authorized by this chapter that were not funded by the
19 legislature.

20 (2) In carrying out its duties, the commission may establish such
21 relationships with public and private institutions, local
22 governments, private industry, community organizations, and other
23 segments of the general public as may be needed to promote equal
24 opportunity for women in government, education, economic security,
25 employment, and services.

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

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

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

NOT ADOPTED 03/01/2018

1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "commission;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "and adding a new chapter to Title
3 43 RCW."

EFFECT: (1) Removes the requirement that the first biennial report to the legislature include an analysis of pay inequity based on gender among individuals employed in the office of the governor and employees included in the Washington management service.

(2) Requires the Commission review and make recommendations to the legislature on strategies to increase the number of women serving on for-profit corporate boards with gross income of five million dollars or more.

(3) Clarifies that the Commission's executive director must report gifts, grants, and endowments from private sources to the Office of Financial Management on a regular basis.

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