
SENATE BILL 5929

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson and Nguyen; by request of Department of Social and Health Services

Read first time 01/21/22. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to changing the membership of the legislative-
2 executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force; and
3 amending RCW 74.08A.505.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.505 and 2018 c 126 s 3 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) A legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction
8 oversight task force is established, with voting members as provided
9 in this subsection. Task force membership shall include diverse,
10 statewide representation and its membership shall reflect regional,
11 racial, and cultural diversity to adequately represent the needs of
12 all children and families in the state.

13 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from
14 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

15 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
16 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
17 representatives.

18 (iii) The governor shall appoint eight members representing the
19 following agencies: The department of social and health services; the
20 department of children, youth, and families; the department of
21 commerce; the employment security department; the office of the

1 superintendent of public instruction; the department of health; the
2 department of corrections; and the state board for community and
3 technical colleges.

4 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs, one from among the
5 legislative members and one from among the executive branch members.
6 The secretary of the department of social and health services shall
7 convene the initial meeting of the task force.

8 (2) The governor shall appoint (~~five~~) eight nonvoting members
9 to the task force representing the:

10 (a) (~~Commission~~) State commission on African American affairs;

11 (b) State commission on Hispanic affairs;

12 (c) State commission on Asian Pacific American affairs;

13 (d) Governor's office of Indian affairs; (~~and~~)

14 (e) Women's commission;

15 (f) LGBTQ commission;

16 (g) Office of equity; and

17 (h) Office of financial management.

18 (3) The cochairs of the intergenerational poverty advisory
19 committee created in RCW 74.08A.510 shall serve as nonvoting members
20 of the task force.

21 (4) The task force shall:

22 (a) Oversee the partner agencies' operation of the WorkFirst
23 program and temporary assistance for needy families program to ensure
24 that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients;

25 (b) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst
26 program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of
27 historically underrepresented populations, such as English language
28 learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;

29 (c) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and
30 the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-
31 sufficiency;

32 (d) Collaborate with the advisory committee created in RCW
33 74.08A.510 to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address
34 adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty;

35 (e) Seek input on best practices for poverty reduction from
36 service providers, community-based organizations, legislators, state
37 agencies, stakeholders, the business community, and subject matter
38 experts;

39 (f) Collaborate with partner agencies and the advisory committee
40 to analyze available data and information regarding intergenerational

1 poverty in the state, with a primary focus on data and information
2 regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle of poverty
3 and welfare dependency unless outside intervention occurs; and

4 (g) Recommend policy actions to the governor and the legislature
5 to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty and promote and
6 encourage self-sufficiency.

7 (5) (a) The task force shall direct the department of social and
8 health services to develop a five-year plan to reduce
9 intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency, subject to
10 oversight and approval by the task force. Upon approval by the task
11 force, the department must submit the plan to the governor and the
12 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.

13 (b) The task force shall review the five-year plan by December 1,
14 2024, and shall direct the department to update the plan as
15 determined necessary by the task force.

16 (6) The partner agencies must provide the task force with regular
17 reports on:

18 (a) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome and
19 performance measures established under this section;

20 (b) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of
21 those trends and expenditures on client services, including services
22 to historically underrepresented populations; and

23 (c) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful on
24 the temporary assistance for needy families program and have lost
25 their benefits either through sanction or the sixty-month time limit.

26 (7) Staff support for the task force, including administration of
27 task force meetings, must be provided by the state agency members of
28 the task force. Additional staff support for legislative members of
29 the task force must be provided by senate committee services and the
30 house of representatives office of program research.

31 (8) During (~~its~~ ~~their~~) their tenure, the state agency members
32 of the task force shall respond in a timely manner to data requests
33 from the cochairs.

34 (9) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
35 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
36 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
37 are elected officials or participating on behalf of an employer,

1 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
2 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

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