
HOUSE BILL 1700

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Veloria, Brough, Brown, J. Kohl, Talcott, Kessler, Flemming, Romero, Heavey, Rust, G. Cole, Wineberry, Cothorn, King, Rayburn, Wang, Wolfe, Riley, Karahalios, Thibaudeau, H. Myers, Anderson, Dellwo, Wood, Quall, Ludwig, Appelwick, Johanson, Campbell, R. Fisher, Holm, Basich, Roland, Jacobsen, L. Johnson, Leonard, Kremen, Locke, Dorn and Long

Read first time 02/05/93. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to a commission on women; and adding a new chapter
2 to Title 43 RCW.

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

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

1 issues of domestic violence, child care, child support, sexual
2 discrimination, sexual harassment and pay inequities in the workplace,
3 and the specific needs of women of color.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state commission on women is
5 created. The commission shall be administered by a director. The
6 commission shall submit to the governor three candidates for the
7 position of director. The governor shall select one of these
8 candidates for the position of director and set the director's salary.
9 The director shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The director
10 shall employ the staff of the commission.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The commission shall consist of eleven
12 members:

13 (1) Four legislators, one from each of the four legislative
14 caucuses appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of
15 the house of representatives;

16 (2) Four minority women appointed by the governor, one each from
17 the African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, and Native
18 American communities;

19 (3) A member of the interagency committee of state employed women,
20 to be chosen by the committee; and

21 (4) Two members from the community at large, to be appointed by the
22 governor.

23 Members shall serve three-year terms. Of the initial appointees,
24 four of the governor's appointments shall serve three-year terms, the
25 four legislative members shall serve two-year terms, and the remaining
26 three shall serve a one-year term. In the case of a vacancy,
27 appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. No
28 member shall serve more than two full consecutive terms. Members shall
29 be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
30 duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. The commission
31 shall elect its own chair. Six members shall constitute a quorum for
32 the purposes of conducting business. The commission shall meet
33 quarterly.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director of the commission shall:

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

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

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

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The commission shall have the following
8 powers and duties:

9 (1) Actively recruit and keep on file names of qualified women to
10 fill vacancies on various boards and commissions;

11 (2) Provide a clearinghouse for information regarding both state
12 and federal legislation;

13 (3) Hold public hearings throughout the state to gather input on
14 issues related to women;

15 (4) Disseminate information on the status of women, and provide
16 resource and referral information;

17 (5) Identify and address specific needs of women of color; and

18 (6) Receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private
19 sources that are made for the use or benefit of the commission and
20 expend, without appropriation, the same or any income from the gifts,
21 grants, or endowments according to their terms.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
23 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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