
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4406

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives J. Kohl, Jacobsen, Dorn, Kessler, Flemming, Wood, Shin, Basich, Ogden, Quall, Peery, G. Cole, Brough, Franklin, Thibaudeau, Brown, Veloria, Johanson, Romero, Miller and Wineberry)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 WHEREAS, Washington State and the nation benefit from equal
2 educational opportunities for all students and employees of the public
3 schools and institutions of higher education; and

4 WHEREAS, In recognition of this benefit, numerous existing state
5 and federal constitutional provisions, laws, rules, and regulations
6 prohibit, and provide redress against, unwarranted discrimination; and

7 WHEREAS, Although many provisions exist to prohibit and redress
8 unlawful discrimination, there may be a need for additional state
9 legislation to address areas unprotected from discrimination; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a need for greater awareness by students,
11 employees, and members of the public of the activities that are
12 prohibited and remedies available to redress wrongs; and

13 WHEREAS, The state has a responsibility to identify, coordinate
14 resources, and eliminate unprotected areas of potential discrimination;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
16 the State of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a Joint
17 Legislative Task Force on Educational Equity be established; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall:

19 (1) Identify existing state and federal constitutional, statutory,
20 and regulatory provisions and agency programs that discourage,
21 prohibit, monitor, or provide redress for discrimination (including

1 harassment), based on race, creed, color, national origin, age, gender,
2 marital status, sexual orientation, or the presence of any sensory,
3 mental, or physical handicap, against students or employees in public
4 education in the State of Washington;

5 (2) Analyze the procedures and remedies available to victims of
6 discrimination;

7 (3) Determine where and to what extent existing provisions and
8 programs overlap;

9 (4) Identify and describe any additional laws, rules, or programs
10 needed to protect against unwarranted discrimination;

11 (5) Estimate the potential fiscal impact of each law, rule, or
12 program identified under subsection (4) of this clause;

13 (6) Determine the potential effect any law or rule identified under
14 subsection (4) of this clause would have on existing programs to remedy
15 the effects of past discrimination or to enhance the participation of
16 any group in the educational setting;

17 (7) Examine the respective responsibilities of state and federal
18 agencies responsible for monitoring or enforcing existing prohibitions
19 against discrimination. In determining those responsibilities, the
20 committee shall examine whether an entity is responsible for
21 eradicating discrimination or for providing redress for victims of
22 discrimination; and

23 (8) Prepare a synopsis of information identified and analyzed under
24 subsections (1) and (2) of this clause to assist public schools and
25 institutions of higher education in informing employees, students, and
26 their families of laws to prohibit discrimination in education; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force may coordinate efforts
28 with any related studies planned or under way at other agencies or
29 contract with an appropriate person or entity to assist in fulfilling
30 all or part of the committee's duties; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of up to
32 twenty-five members as follows: PROVIDED, That all expenses and hiring
33 of additional nonlegislative staff shall be subject to the approval of
34 the House of Representatives Executive Rules Committee and the Senate
35 Facilities and Operations Committee:

36 (1) Two members from each caucus of the House of Representatives,
37 selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. At least one
38 member from each caucus shall be a member of the committee on higher

1 education or the committee on education in the House of
2 Representatives;

3 (2) Two members from each caucus of the Senate, selected by the
4 President of the Senate. At least one member from each caucus shall be
5 a member of the committee on higher education or the committee on
6 education in the Senate;

7 (3) One member from each of the following agencies shall serve on
8 the committee: The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction,
9 the State Board of Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Board,
10 the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and the Human
11 Rights Commission;

12 (4) In addition, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and
13 the President of the Senate shall select ten public members
14 representing the following groups: Students, parents, faculty,
15 administrators, employees, and other groups interested in issues
16 relating to the disabled, minorities, gender or sexual orientation; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall choose its chair
18 and vice-chair from among its membership; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That no later than December 31, 1994, the
20 committee chair and vice-chair shall report to the legislature the
21 committee's findings and recommendations including, but not limited to,
22 recommendations for:

23 (1) The adoption, amendment, or repeal of specific laws or rules;

24 (2) Initiating, changing, or terminating specific programs
25 affecting or related to equal opportunities in education; and

26 (3) Ways to improve coordination of existing efforts to prevent or
27 redress discrimination in education; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall expire December
29 31, 1994.

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