
SENATE BILL 6303

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators Quigley, Haugen, Snyder, McAuliffe, Roach, Franklin, McDonald, Hargrove, Pelz, Bauer, Wojahn, Williams, Prentice, Sheldon, Loveland, Skratek, Owen, Ludwig, Sutherland, A. Smith, Winsley, Spanel, West, Moyer, Vognild, M. Rasmussen, Oke, Anderson and Drew

Read first time 01/19/94. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the termination of state boards and commissions;
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.88 RCW; creating new sections; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there has been a
6 continuing proliferation of boards and commissions within state
7 government. These boards and commissions are often created without
8 legislative review or input and without an assessment of whether there
9 is a resulting duplication of purpose or process. Once created, they
10 frequently duplicate the duties of existing governmental entities,
11 create additional expense, and obscure responsibility. It has been
12 difficult to control the growth of boards and commissions because of
13 the many special interests involved. Accordingly, the legislature
14 establishes the process in this chapter to eliminate redundant and
15 obsolete boards and commissions.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The governor shall conduct a review of
17 all of the boards and commissions identified under section 4 of this
18 act and, by January 1, 1995, submit to the legislature a report

1 recommending which boards and commissions should be terminated based
2 upon the criteria set forth in subsection (3) of this section. The
3 report must state which of the criteria were relied upon with respect
4 to each recommendation. At least twenty-five percent of the total
5 number of boards and commissions identified under section 4 of this act
6 shall be recommended for termination.

7 (2) The governor shall also recommend the transfer of duties and
8 obligations from a board or commission to another existing state entity
9 and shall recommend the consolidation of two or more boards or
10 commissions, or the merger of a board or commission into some other
11 state agency if appropriate. The governor shall submit an executive
12 request bill by January 10, 1995, to implement the recommendations by
13 expressly terminating certain boards and commissions effective July 1,
14 1995, and by providing for the transfer of duties and obligations and
15 for any mergers.

16 (3) In preparing his or her report and legislation, the governor
17 shall make an evaluation based upon its answers to the questions set
18 forth in this subsection. The governor shall give these criteria
19 priority in the order listed.

20 (a) Has the mission of the board or commission been completed or
21 ceased to be critical to effective state government?

22 (b) Does the work of the board or commission directly affect public
23 safety, welfare, or health?

24 (c) Can the work of the board or commission be effectively done by
25 another state agency without adverse impact on public safety, welfare,
26 or health?

27 (d) Will termination of the board or commission have a significant
28 adverse impact on state revenue because of loss of federal funds?

29 (e) Will termination of the board or commission save revenues, be
30 cost neutral, or result in greater expenditures?

31 (f) Is the work of the board or commission being done by another
32 board, commission, or state agency?

33 (g) Could the work of the board or commission be effectively done
34 by a nonpublic entity?

35 (h) Will termination of the board or commission result in a
36 significant loss of expertise to state government?

37 (i) Will termination of the board or commission result in
38 operational efficiencies that are other than fiscal in nature?

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The legislature shall consider and enact or
2 not enact the legislation requested by the governor under section 2 of
3 this act in accordance with the rules of each house, except that either
4 house of the legislature may not amend the legislation as requested by
5 the governor unless done so by a unanimous vote of the members voting.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The boards and commissions to be reviewed by
7 the governor must be all entities that are required to be included in
8 the list prepared by the office of financial management under RCW
9 43.88.505, excepting entities established under: Constitutional
10 mandate; court order or rule; requirement of federal law; or
11 requirement as a condition of the state or a local government receiving
12 federal financial assistance if, in the judgment of the governor, no
13 other state agency, board, or commission would satisfy the requirement.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.88 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 A new entity may not be established that would otherwise qualify
17 for review under sections 1 through 4 of this act if its creation would
18 result in an increase above seventy-five percent of the number of
19 entities identified under section 4 of this act as of the effective
20 date of this section. Before the establishment of a new entity subject
21 to sections 1 through 4 of this act, the director of the office of
22 financial management must be consulted and shall certify that the
23 establishment is within the limit set by this section.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are
25 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,
26 or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public
27 institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

--- END ---