
SENATE BILL 6568

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Winsley, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen, B. Sheldon, Spanel, Keiser, Franklin and Thibaudeau

Read first time 01/23/2004. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to directing the institute for public policy to
2 develop a proposal for establishing a Washington state women's history
3 center or information network; creating new sections; providing an
4 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that citizens of
7 Washington state take great pride in the many landmark achievements in
8 Washington state during the last several decades, and earlier, in
9 achieving innumerable substantial improvements in legal rights and
10 broad opportunities for women and girls. These include rights and
11 opportunities in all spheres of life: Personal, professional, labor,
12 education, business, science and technology, health, sports, arts,
13 financial, community leadership, public administration, civil rights,
14 political leadership, elective office, and much more. Because of the
15 substantial commitment and dedicated efforts of untold tens of
16 thousands of Washingtonians, state laws and opportunities for women in
17 Washington advanced more quickly and substantially than in many other
18 states. Washington achieved recognition as a bellwether state and a
19 model for similar efforts in other states. The history of this

1 sustained effort over many years is a significant component of
2 Washington state history and national history. Many people are
3 interested in learning about and researching how and why Washington has
4 become such a major leader, and Washington students in kindergarten
5 through grade twelve should have the opportunity to learn about this
6 important part of state history.

7 The legislature further finds that there has been no systematic
8 effort to compile this landmark history, maintain documents,
9 photographs, and other artifacts, or index where such items can be
10 accessed. Unfortunately, much valuable history is scattered and
11 fragmented. While various museums, archives, and libraries have some
12 documentation of these important achievements, a very great quantity of
13 historically valuable records and artifacts continue to reside in
14 individuals' memories, organizational minutes, and boxes in people's
15 attics and garages. Thus, without an intentional effort, this critical
16 history might become lost to history forever.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The institute for public policy shall
18 undertake a study and make recommendations to the 2005 legislature for
19 development of a center or an information network, or both, that would
20 achieve the following:

21 (a) Develop an approach for systematically collecting, preserving,
22 maintaining, and providing public access to historically valuable
23 records and artifacts pertaining to women's history in Washington
24 state;

25 (b) Develop a general outline of where historically significant
26 records and artifacts are located and may be accessed;

27 (c) Encourage citizens with historically significant records and
28 artifacts to preserve them and make them accessible;

29 (d) Encourage development of educational programs and displays,
30 including those which can tour throughout the state;

31 (e) Encourage development of learning opportunities for K-12
32 students, as well as providing materials for women's history studies in
33 colleges and universities;

34 (f) Actively promote collection of oral histories;

35 (g) Encourage research about this history;

36 (h) Encourage private donations of funds to assist this effort; and

1 (i) Encourage private donations or loans of records and artifacts
2 for public access, including protecting the ability of donors to
3 specify conditions under which loaned materials will be returned to the
4 donor or their heirs.

5 (2) The institute may create an advisory committee or engage in
6 other efforts to consult with interested parties, including: Higher
7 education institutions and archives, state and local libraries, state
8 and local museums, state historical societies, state archives,
9 interested organizations and individuals who participated in this
10 historic effort, members and staff of the former state women's
11 commission, current and former state elected officials and their
12 staffs, current and former legislators and their staffs, historians,
13 state agencies, local governments, office of financial management,
14 state commissions on African-American affairs, Hispanic affairs, and
15 Asian Pacific American affairs, governor's office of Indian affairs,
16 business organizations, labor organizations, and such others as
17 appropriate.

18 (3) The institute shall submit its recommendations to the
19 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2004.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
22 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
23 May 1, 2004.

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