

ESHB 2518 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services, Mental Health & Housing

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that
4 intergenerational poverty, which passes from parents to children,
5 should be distinguished from situational poverty, which occurs after
6 an event like losing employment. Intergenerational poverty can affect
7 the lives of many future children and generations without the
8 development of specific strategies to stop this cycle.

9 (2) The legislature finds that it is necessary to bring together
10 state agencies and other stakeholders to collect data regarding
11 intergenerational poverty and develop two generation-specific
12 strategies to provide families the support they need to overcome a
13 history of poverty.

14 (3) The legislature intends to create a data system that allows
15 for meaningful analysis of intergenerational poverty for the purposes
16 of policy and program development. The legislature further intends to
17 create an intergenerational poverty reduction commission and an
18 intergenerational poverty advisory committee and require the
19 commission to provide an annual report in order to lay the groundwork
20 in Washington for reducing intergenerational poverty.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
22 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
23 otherwise.

24 (1) "Commission" means the commission on intergenerational
25 poverty reduction.

26 (2) "Cycle of poverty" or "poverty cycle" means the set of
27 factors or events by which the long-term poverty of a person is
28 likely to continue and be experienced by each child of the person
29 when the child becomes an adult unless there is outside intervention.

1 (3) "Intergenerational poverty" means poverty in which two or
2 more successive generations of a family continue in the cycle of
3 poverty and governmental dependence, and is not situational poverty.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall establish and
5 maintain a system to track intergenerational poverty, which must:

6 (a) Identify groups that have a high risk of experiencing
7 intergenerational poverty;

8 (b) Identify incidents, patterns, and trends that explain or
9 contribute to intergenerational poverty;

10 (c) Assist case workers, social scientists, and government
11 officials in the study and development of effective and efficient
12 plans and programs to help individuals and families in the state to
13 break the cycle of poverty; and

14 (d) Gather and track available local, state, and national data
15 on:

16 (i) Official poverty rates;

17 (ii) Child poverty rates;

18 (iii) Years spent by individuals in childhood poverty;

19 (iv) Years spent by individuals in adult poverty; and

20 (v) Information on the impact of poverty and economic hardship on
21 other areas of child and family well-being, including but not limited
22 to early learning, K-12 education, higher education, health,
23 including alcohol or chemical dependency and mental health, criminal
24 justice, child welfare, marriage, community involvement, and
25 employment.

26 (2) To the extent available, data collected pursuant to this
27 section must be broken down by:

28 (a) Detailed racial ethnic groups and subgroups;

29 (b) Nativity;

30 (c) Age;

31 (d) Sex;

32 (e) Religious affiliation;

33 (f) Familial status at the time of birth;

34 (g) Presence and involvement of extended family; and

35 (h) Local geographies, including urban, suburban, rural, and
36 census tract.

37 (3) In implementing the intergenerational poverty tracking
38 system, the department shall:

1 (a) Use available data in the tracking system, including public
2 assistance data, census data, and other data made available to the
3 department;

4 (b) Develop and implement methods to integrate, compare, analyze,
5 and validate the data for the purposes described in subsection (1) of
6 this section;

7 (c) Protect the privacy of individuals living in poverty by using
8 and distributing data within the tracking system in compliance with
9 RCW 74.04.060, and other applicable state and federal laws;

10 (d) Include in the annual written report described in section 8
11 of this act, a report on the data, findings, and potential uses of
12 the tracking system.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** There is created the Washington
14 intergenerational poverty reduction commission composed of the
15 following voting members:

16 (1) The secretary of the department or his or her designee;

17 (2) The secretary of health or his or her designee;

18 (3) The superintendent of public instruction or his or her
19 designee;

20 (4) The executive director of the state board for community and
21 technical colleges or his or her designee;

22 (5) The commissioner of the employment security department or his
23 or her designee;

24 (6) The director of the department of commerce or his or her
25 designee;

26 (7) The director of the department of early learning or his or
27 her designee; and

28 (8) The chair of the intergenerational poverty advisory committee
29 created in section 7 of this act.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The commission shall be cochaired by
31 the secretary of the department or his or her designee and the chair
32 of the intergenerational poverty advisory committee or his or her
33 designee.

34 (2) The cochairs:

35 (a) Are responsible for the call and conduct of meetings;

36 (b) Shall call and hold meetings of the commission at least
37 quarterly; and

1 (c) Shall call additional meetings upon request by a majority of
2 the commission's voting members.

3 (3) A majority of the voting members of the commission
4 constitutes a quorum of the commission at any meeting and the action
5 of the majority of voting members present is the action of the
6 commission.

7 (4) The department shall provide staff support to the commission.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The commission's purpose is to:

9 (a) Collaborate in sharing and analyzing data and information
10 regarding intergenerational poverty in the state with a primary focus
11 on data and information regarding children who are at risk of
12 continuing the cycle of poverty and welfare dependency unless outside
13 intervention is made;

14 (b) Examine and analyze shared data and information regarding
15 intergenerational poverty, including the data provided by the
16 intergenerational poverty report described in section 8 of this act,
17 to identify and develop effective and efficient plans, programs, and
18 recommendations to help at-risk children in the state escape the
19 cycle of poverty and welfare dependency;

20 (c) Implement data-driven policies and programs addressing
21 poverty, public assistance, education, and other areas as needed to
22 measurably reduce the incidence of children in the state who remain
23 in the cycle of poverty and welfare dependency as they become adults;

24 (d) Establish and facilitate improved cooperation between state
25 agencies down to the case worker level in rescuing children from
26 intergenerational poverty and welfare dependency; and

27 (e) Collaborate with the intergenerational poverty advisory
28 committee established in section 7 of this act and other community
29 resources, including academic experts, advocacy groups, nonprofit
30 corporations, local governments, and religious institutions in
31 exploring strategies and solutions to help children in the state who
32 are victims of intergenerational poverty escape the cycle of poverty
33 and welfare dependency.

34 (2) The commission shall:

35 (a) Fulfill the commission's purposes as listed in subsection (1)
36 of this section;

37 (b) Study, evaluate, and report on the status and effectiveness
38 of policies, procedures, and programs that provide services to

1 children in the state affected by intergenerational poverty and
2 welfare dependency;

3 (c) Study and evaluate the policies, procedures, and programs
4 implemented by other states and nongovernmental entities that address
5 the needs of children affected by intergenerational poverty and
6 welfare dependency;

7 (d)(i) Identify policies, procedures, and programs, including any
8 lack of interagency data sharing, lack of policy coordination, or
9 current federal requirements, that are impeding efforts to help
10 children in the state affected by intergenerational poverty escape
11 the poverty cycle and welfare dependency; and

12 (ii) Implement and recommend changes to those policies and
13 procedures;

14 (e) Create an ongoing five and ten-year plan, which is updated
15 annually, containing:

16 (i) Measurable goals and benchmarks, including future action
17 needed to attain those goals and benchmarks, for decreasing the
18 incidence of intergenerational poverty among the state's children and
19 increasing the number of the state's children who escape the poverty
20 cycle and welfare dependency;

21 (ii) Implement policy, procedure, and program changes to address
22 the needs of children affected by intergenerational poverty and help
23 those children escape the poverty cycle and welfare dependency,
24 including, as available over time, data to track the effectiveness of
25 each change; and

26 (iii) Recommend policy, procedure, and program changes to address
27 the needs of children affected by intergenerational poverty and to
28 help those children escape the poverty cycle and welfare dependency,
29 including the steps that will be required to make the recommended
30 changes and whether further action is required by the legislature or
31 the federal government;

32 (f) Ensure that each change and recommended change to a policy,
33 procedure, or program, which is made by the commission, is supported
34 by verifiable data;

35 (g) Protect the privacy of individuals living in poverty by using
36 and distributing the data it collects or examines in compliance with
37 RCW 74.04.060 and other applicable federal and state requirements;
38 and

1 (h) Provide a forum for public comment and participation in
2 efforts to help children in the state escape the cycle of poverty and
3 welfare dependency.

4 (3) To accomplish its duties, the commission may:

5 (a) Request and receive from any state or local governmental
6 agency or institution, information relating to poverty in the state,
7 including:

8 (i) Reports;

9 (ii) Audits;

10 (iii) Data;

11 (iv) Projections; and

12 (v) Statistics; and

13 (b) Appoint special committees, in addition to the advisory
14 committee described in section 7 of this act, to advise and assist
15 the commission.

16 (4)(a) Members of a special committee described in subsection
17 (3)(b) of this section shall be appointed by the commission and may
18 include:

19 (i) Members of the commission; or

20 (ii) Individuals from the private or public sector.

21 (b) Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for
22 travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on
23 behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization.
24 Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to
25 chapter 43.03 RCW.

26 (c) A special committee described in subsection (3)(b) of this
27 section shall report to the commission on the progress of the special
28 committee.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) To assist the commission, there is
30 created the intergenerational poverty advisory committee.

31 (2) The advisory committee shall include diverse, statewide
32 representation from public, nonprofit, and for-profit entities. Its
33 membership shall reflect regional, racial, and cultural diversity to
34 adequately represent the needs of all children and families in the
35 state.

36 (3) Members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the
37 secretary of the department, with the approval of the commission.

38 (4) The advisory committee shall consist of not more than fifteen
39 members and shall include representatives from:

- 1 (a) Advocacy groups that focus on childhood poverty issues;
2 (b) Advocacy groups that focus on education issues;
3 (c) Academic experts in childhood poverty or education issues;
4 (d) Faith-based organizations that address childhood poverty or
5 education issues;
6 (e) Tribal governments;
7 (f) Families impacted by poverty;
8 (g) Local government representatives that address childhood
9 poverty or education issues; and
10 (h) The commission on African-American affairs, the state
11 commission on Hispanic affairs, the state commission on Asian Pacific
12 American affairs, and the governor's office of Indian affairs.

13 (5) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, each member of the
14 advisory committee shall be appointed for a four-year term unless a
15 member is appointed to complete an unexpired term.

16 (6) The secretary of the department may adjust the length of term
17 at the time of appointment or reappointment so that approximately
18 half of the advisory committee is appointed every two years.

19 (7) The secretary of the department may remove an advisory
20 committee member:

21 (a) If the member is unable or unwilling to carry out the
22 member's assigned responsibilities; or

23 (b) For good cause.

24 (8) If a vacancy occurs in the advisory committee membership for
25 any reason, a replacement may be appointed for the unexpired term.

26 (9) The advisory committee shall choose its chair from among its
27 membership. The secretary of the department shall convene the initial
28 meeting of the advisory committee.

29 (10) A majority of the advisory committee constitutes a quorum of
30 the advisory committee at any meeting and the action of the majority
31 of members present is the action of the advisory committee.

32 (11) The advisory committee shall:

33 (a) Meet at least twice a year at the request of the commission
34 chair or the chair of the advisory committee;

35 (b) Make recommendations to the commission on how the commission
36 and the state can effectively address the needs of children affected
37 by intergenerational poverty and achieve the purposes and duties of
38 the commission as described in section 6 of this act; and

39 (c) Ensure that the advisory committee's recommendations to the
40 commission are supported by verifiable data.

1 (12) The department shall provide staff support to the advisory
2 committee.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) Beginning October 15, 2017, and each
4 October 15th thereafter, the commission, in collaboration with the
5 department and the advisory committee, shall provide an annual report
6 to the governor, the appropriate committees of the legislature, and
7 the WorkFirst legislative executive task force.

- 8 (2) The report must:
- 9 (a) Include the five and ten-year plans described in section
10 6(2)(e) of this act;
 - 11 (b) Describe how the commission fulfilled its statutory purposes
12 and duties during the year;
 - 13 (c) Describe policies, procedures, and programs that have been
14 implemented or modified to help break the cycle of poverty and end
15 welfare dependency for children in the state affected by
16 intergenerational poverty; and
 - 17 (d) Contain recommendations on how the state should act to
18 address issues relating to breaking the cycle of poverty and ending
19 welfare dependency for children in the state affected by
20 intergenerational poverty.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act
22 constitute a new chapter in Title 74 RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 This act shall be terminated on June 30, 2021, as provided in
26 section 11 of this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 The following acts or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter
30 amended, are each repealed, effective June 30, 2022:

- 31 (1) RCW 74.--.--- and 2016 c . . . s 1 (section 1 of this act);
- 32 (2) RCW 74.--.--- and 2016 c . . . s 2 (section 2 of this act);
- 33 (3) RCW 74.--.--- and 2016 c . . . s 3 (section 3 of this act);
- 34 (4) RCW 74.--.--- and 2016 c . . . s 4 (section 4 of this act);
- 35 (5) RCW 74.--.--- and 2016 c . . . s 5 (section 5 of this act);
- 36 (6) RCW 74.--.--- and 2016 c . . . s 6 (section 6 of this act);

1 (7) RCW 74.--.--- and 2016 c . . . s 7 (section 7 of this act);
2 and
3 (8) RCW 74.--.--- and 2016 c . . . s 8 (section 8 of this act)."

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4 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "poverty;" strike the
5 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter
6 43.131 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 74 RCW; and providing an
7 effective date."

EFFECT: The system established to track intergenerational poverty must include information regarding alcohol or chemical dependency, mental health, marriage, and community involvement. The data must be broken down by the additional categories: Religious affiliation, familial status at time of birth, and presence and involvement of extended family. The term "gender" is struck. A sunset clause is added to this Act. In 2020, JLARC will conduct a sunset review and the Act terminates on June 30, 2021. The Act is repealed on June 30, 2022.

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