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SENATE BILL 6517

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Rolfes, Chase, Habib, Frockt, and Conway

Read first time 01/22/16. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing equitable gender representation on  
2 state boards and commissions; adding a new section to chapter 43.06  
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is  
6 substantial public support for policy measures aimed at promoting  
7 gender equity and fairness. It is important to ensure that state  
8 government promotes gender equity in the appointment process. The  
9 legislature further finds that information about gender  
10 representation on appointed boards and commissions is currently  
11 inadequate to determine whether progress is being made toward  
12 achieving gender equity.

13 Therefore, the legislature intends to increase gender equity in  
14 the composition of state boards and commissions by imposing  
15 benchmarks for female representation and gathering reports on the  
16 gender composition of state boards and commissions.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.06  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) By December 1, 2016, the office of financial management shall  
20 submit to the governor and both houses of the legislature a report

1 describing the gender composition of all boards and commissions in  
2 which the governor possesses appointment power and the boards of  
3 trustees of institutions of higher education as defined in RCW  
4 28B.10.016.

5 (2) By January 1, 2022, each board and commission in which the  
6 governor possesses appointment power and each board of trustees of an  
7 institution of higher education must have no fewer than one-third of  
8 its membership comprising females and no fewer than one third of its  
9 membership comprising males. By December 1, 2022, the office of  
10 financial management shall submit to the governor and both houses of  
11 the legislature a report describing the gender composition of all  
12 boards and commissions in which the governor possesses appointment  
13 power and the boards of trustees of institutions of higher education  
14 as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

15 (3) By January 1, 2032, each board and commission in which the  
16 governor possesses appointment power and each board of trustees of an  
17 institution of higher education must demonstrate substantial equity  
18 standards and have no fewer than one-third of its membership  
19 comprising females and no fewer than one-third of its membership  
20 comprising males. By December 1, 2032, the office of financial  
21 management shall submit to the governor and both houses of the  
22 legislature a report describing the gender composition of all boards  
23 and commissions in which the governor possesses appointment power and  
24 the boards of trustees of institutions of higher education as defined  
25 in RCW 28B.10.016.

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