
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5780

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Darneille, Walsh, Rolfes, Rivers, Saldaña, Angel, Wellman, Brown, Chase, Wilson, Cleveland, Keiser, Warnick, Short, Kuderer, Becker, Ranker, Bailey, Conway, and Hunt)

READ FIRST TIME 01/18/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to commemorating the centennial of national
2 women's suffrage; adding a new chapter to Title 27 RCW; and providing
3 an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** On August 26, 1920, with the action of the
6 Tennessee legislature, the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States
7 Constitution was ratified, establishing the right to vote for most
8 American women. However, this right for some women occurred later:
9 Native Americans generally by 1924; many Asians during the mid-
10 twentieth century; and many others following enactment of voting
11 rights legislation during the 1960s.

12 The introduction, passage, and ratification of the Nineteenth
13 Amendment were the result of decades of work and struggle by women's
14 voting rights advocates throughout the United States, with people
15 from Washington state providing significant leadership.

16 In 1854, six years after the landmark women's rights convention
17 in Seneca Falls, New York, the Washington territorial legislature
18 initially considered enacting women's right to vote. Susan B. Anthony
19 visited Washington territory in 1871, and addressed the Washington
20 territorial legislature, the first woman in the country to address a

1 state legislative body in session. This spurred the creation of many
2 women's right to vote associations in Washington and in other states.

3 State women's right to vote legislation eventually passed the
4 Washington territorial legislature twice, but each time was found
5 unconstitutional by the territorial supreme court. With the 1910
6 approval of a state constitutional amendment by the male voters of
7 the state, Washington became the first state in the twentieth
8 century, and the fifth state overall, to enact women's right to vote
9 at the state level.

10 In 2009, the state of Washington posthumously awarded its highest
11 honor, the medal of merit, to the two key leaders of the Washington
12 women's right to vote movement, Emma Smith DeVoe and May Arkwright
13 Hutton.

14 The path to women's suffrage was blazed by western states.
15 Washington's action (1910) followed Wyoming (1890), Colorado (1893),
16 Utah (1870), and Idaho (1896). These successes were immediately
17 followed by California (1911) and Oregon (1912), in establishing
18 women's right to vote.

19 Washington was a major leader in the movement for nationwide
20 women's right to vote. Washington was the first state in the
21 twentieth century to fully enfranchise women, and inspired the
22 nationwide campaign that soon brought success in many western states
23 and the territory of Alaska, culminating in the Nineteenth Amendment
24 to the United States Constitution providing for American women
25 throughout the country to vote.

26 In 2010, the Washington women's history consortium provided
27 leadership for statewide commemoration of the centennial of
28 Washington state women's right to vote, sponsoring and coordinating a
29 wide range of statewide activities.

30 The centennial of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the
31 United States Constitution, in 2020, offers still greater
32 opportunities for Washingtonians to commemorate and educate
33 themselves and future generations about the importance of voting and
34 civic engagement. Washingtonians and the many visitors to Washington
35 will benefit from learning about and becoming inspired by the
36 historic efforts of the women's right to vote movement in Washington
37 and throughout the nation, and the subsequent impacts on life in
38 Washington and the United States.

39 Therefore, the legislature finds it beneficial to begin the
40 process of preparing for statewide commemoration from 2018 through

1 2020, of the centennial of the processes of congressional passage of
2 and states' legislative ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to
3 the United States Constitution, which established the right to vote
4 for American women.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Subject to the availability of amounts
6 appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington women's
7 history consortium shall:

8 (1) Provide leadership for statewide commemoration from 2018
9 through 2020 of the centennial pertaining to the passage by congress
10 of the Nineteenth Amendment and its subsequent ratification by three-
11 fourths of the state legislatures in August 1920;

12 (2) Immediately begin preparations for this statewide
13 commemoration, to include but not be limited to:

14 (a) Consulting with a wide variety of organizations,
15 institutions, public agencies, educational agencies and institutions,
16 tourism organizations, and the general public about the content and
17 conduct of this statewide commemoration;

18 (b) Developing and encouraging others to develop a broad range of
19 widely available educational opportunities for Washingtonians
20 generally, students, and visitors, including significant online
21 educational resources, to:

22 (i) Learn about the importance of voting in the context of women
23 gaining the right to vote;

24 (ii) Consider the subsequent long-term impacts of women gaining
25 the right to vote;

26 (iii) Learn about the active leadership role of Washingtonians in
27 achieving the nationwide right to vote for women;

28 (iv) Honor the countless participants in the women's suffrage
29 movement; and

30 (v) Inspire future generations to treasure their right to vote;

31 (c) Planning, coordinating, and publicizing events and
32 informational materials for Washingtonians and visitors throughout
33 the state commemorating this centennial;

34 (3) Create and distribute a portfolio of public humanities
35 programs, and encourage others to also do this, to engage
36 Washingtonians and visitors with important aspects of the women's
37 right to vote movement;

38 (4) Encourage private organizations, schools, institutions of
39 higher education, public agencies, and local governments to organize

1 and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of the
2 Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;

3 (5) Coordinate with the regional and national organizations and
4 agencies with respect to their commemorative work;

5 (6) Coordinate with the national collaborative for women's
6 history sites by contributing a Washington component to the
7 development of a nationwide votes for women trail; and

8 (7) Administer a grant program for public agencies, educational
9 institutions, and organizations exempt from taxation under Title 26
10 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code to assist
11 with their commemoration activities.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The consortium has the following powers,
13 and may exercise them as necessary to carry out its duties:

14 (1) To appoint task forces and advisory committees;

15 (2) To work with staff appointed by the Washington state
16 historical society;

17 (3) To enter into agreements or contracts; and

18 (4) To solicit, accept, use, and dispose of grants and gifts.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Legislative members serving on the
20 consortium or any task forces or advisory committees created to
21 further the purpose of the consortium must be reimbursed for travel
22 expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

23 (2) Representatives of state and local governments must be
24 reimbursed pursuant to the reimbursement policies of their respective
25 entity.

26 (3) Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for
27 travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on
28 behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization.
29 Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to
30 chapter 43.03 RCW.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The consortium must report annually by
32 December 1st to the governor and the legislature on the work of the
33 consortium, together with any recommendations to the governor and
34 legislature.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This chapter expires July 1, 2021.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 27 RCW.

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