

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2759

Chapter 98, Laws of 2018

65th Legislature
2018 Regular Session

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 7, 2018

Passed by the House March 5, 2018
Yeas 50 Nays 47

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2018
Yeas 44 Nays 5

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Approved March 15, 2018 1:59 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2759** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

March 16, 2018

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2759

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

State of Washington **65th Legislature** **2018 Regular Session**

By Representatives Doglio, Jenkins, Senn, Pettigrew, Dolan, Hudgins, Stanford, Chapman, Kagi, Appleton, Gregerson, Tarleton, Santos, Kilduff, Pollet, Macri, Frame, and Bergquist

Read first time 01/15/18. Referred to Committee on State Govt, Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the Washington state women's
2 commission; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; creating new
3 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is important
6 to achieve equal opportunity for all of its citizens. The legislature
7 finds that women face unique problems and needs. For economic,
8 social, and historical reasons, a disproportionate number of women
9 find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from the benefits of equal
10 opportunity. It is the purpose of this chapter to improve the well-
11 being of women, by enabling them to participate fully in all fields
12 of endeavor, assisting them in obtaining governmental services, and
13 promoting equal compensation and fairness in employment for women.
14 The legislature also believes that addressing women's issues and
15 improving the well-being of women will have a positive impact on
16 larger societal issues. The legislature further finds that the
17 development of public policy and the efficient delivery of
18 governmental services to meet the needs of women can be improved by
19 establishing a focal point in state government for the interests of
20 women. Therefore, the legislature deems it necessary to establish in
21 statute the Washington state women's commission to further these

1 purposes. The commission shall address issues relevant to the
2 problems and needs of women, such as domestic violence, child care,
3 child support, sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, equal
4 compensation and job pathways opportunities in employment, and the
5 specific needs of women of color.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state women's commission is
7 established in the office of the governor. The commission shall be
8 administered by an executive director, who shall be appointed by, and
9 serve at the pleasure of, the governor. The governor shall set the
10 salary of the executive director. The executive director shall employ
11 the staff of the commission.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state women's
13 commission shall consist of nine members appointed by the governor
14 with the advice and consent of the senate.

15 (2) The governor shall consider nominations for membership based
16 upon maintaining a balanced and diverse distribution of ethnic,
17 geographic, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status,
18 and occupational representation, where practicable.

19 (3) All commission members shall serve at the pleasure of the
20 governor, but in no case may any member serve more than three years
21 without formal reappointment by the governor. All legislative
22 advisory members shall serve for a two-year term and the position of
23 any legislative advisory member shall be deemed vacated whenever such
24 member ceases to be a member of the house from which the member was
25 appointed. Of the persons initially appointed by the governor to the
26 commission, three shall be appointed to serve one year, three to
27 serve two years, and three to serve three years. Upon expiration of
28 such terms, subsequent appointments shall be for three years. Any
29 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
30 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as
31 the original appointments.

32 (4) Two members of the senate, one from each of the two major
33 political parties, appointed by the president of the senate, and two
34 members of the house of representatives, one from each of the two
35 major political parties, appointed by the speaker of the house of
36 representatives, shall serve as advisory members.

1 (5)(a) Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed for expenses
2 incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW
3 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

4 (b) Legislative members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred
5 in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

6 (6) A simple majority of the commission's membership constitutes
7 a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director of the Washington state
9 women's commission shall:

10 (1) Monitor state legislation and advocate for legislation
11 affecting women;

12 (2) Work with state agencies to assess programs and policies that
13 affect women;

14 (3) Coordinate with the minority commissions and human rights
15 commission to address issues of mutual concern; and

16 (4) Work as a liaison between the public and private sector to
17 eliminate barriers to women's economic equity.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The Washington state women's
19 commission shall have the following duties:

20 (a) Actively recruit and maintain a list of names of qualified
21 women to fill vacancies on various boards and commissions;

22 (b) Provide a clearinghouse for information regarding both state
23 and federal legislation as it relates to the purpose of this chapter;

24 (c) Identify and define specific needs of women of color and
25 provide recommendations for addressing those needs in the biennial
26 report to the legislature and governor under (j) of this subsection;

27 (d) Consult with state agencies regarding the effect of agency
28 policies, procedures, practices, laws, and administrative rules on
29 the unique problems and needs of women. The commission shall also
30 advise such state agencies on the development and implementation of
31 comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing
32 on those problems and needs;

33 (e) Provide resource and referral information to agencies and the
34 public. The commission may gather data and disseminate information to
35 the public in order to implement the purposes of this chapter;

36 (f) Hold public hearings to gather input on issues related to the
37 unique problems and needs of women. The commission must include in
38 the biennial report submitted under (j) of this subsection the input

1 received and recommendations for addressing the problems and needs
2 discussed at the public hearings;

3 (g) Advocate for removal of legal and social barriers for women;

4 (h) Review best practices for sexual harassment policies and
5 training and provide recommendations to state agencies as they update
6 their sexual harassment policies. The commission shall also maintain
7 a file of sexual harassment policies that meet high quality standards
8 and make these files available for agency use;

9 (i) Review and make recommendations to the legislature on
10 strategies to increase the number of women serving on for-profit
11 corporate boards with gross income of five million dollars or more;
12 and

13 (j) Submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
14 legislature and the governor every two years detailing the
15 commission's activities. The report submitted must be in electronic
16 format pursuant to RCW 43.01.036.

17 (2) State agencies must provide appropriate and reasonable
18 assistance to the commission as needed, including gathering data and
19 information, in order for the commission to carry out the purpose of
20 this chapter.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The Washington state women's commission
22 shall have the following powers:

23 (1) Receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private
24 sources that are made for the use or benefit of the commission and to
25 expend the same or any income therefrom according to their terms and
26 the purpose of this chapter. The commission's executive director
27 shall make a report of such funds received from private sources to
28 the office of financial management on a regular basis. Such funds
29 received from private sources shall not be applied to reduce or
30 substitute for the commission's budget as appropriated by the
31 legislature, but shall be applied and expended toward projects and
32 functions authorized by this chapter that were not funded by the
33 legislature.

34 (2) In carrying out its duties, the commission may establish such
35 relationships with public and private institutions, local
36 governments, private industry, community organizations, and other
37 segments of the general public as may be needed to promote equal
38 opportunity for women in government, education, economic security,
39 employment, and services.

1 (3) The commission may adopt rules and regulations pursuant to
2 chapter 34.05 RCW as shall be necessary to implement the purpose of
3 this chapter.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The Washington state women's commission
5 must provide staffing support to the interagency committee of state
6 employed women, a volunteer organization that aims to better the
7 lives of state employees by advising the governor and agencies on
8 policies that affect state employed women.

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

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

20 In 1854, six years after the landmark women's rights convention
21 in Seneca Falls, New York, the Washington territorial legislature
22 initially considered enacting women's right to vote. Susan B. Anthony
23 visited Washington territory in 1871 and addressed the Washington
24 territorial legislature, the first woman in the country to address a
25 state legislative body in session. This spurred the creation of many
26 women's right to vote associations in Washington and other states.

27 State women's right to vote legislation eventually passed the
28 Washington territorial legislature twice, but each time was found
29 unconstitutional by the territorial supreme court. With the 1910
30 approval of a state constitutional amendment by the male voters of
31 the state, Washington became the first state in the twentieth
32 century, and the fifth state overall, to enact women's right to vote
33 at the state level.

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

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

6 Washington was a major leader in the movement for nationwide
7 women's right to vote. Washington was the first state in the
8 twentieth century to fully enfranchise women and inspired the
9 nationwide campaign that soon brought success in many western states
10 and the territory of Alaska, culminating in the Nineteenth Amendment
11 to the United States Constitution providing for American women
12 throughout the country to vote.

13 In 2010, the Washington women's history consortium provided
14 leadership for statewide commemoration of the centennial of
15 Washington state women's right to vote, sponsoring and coordinating a
16 wide range of statewide activities.

17 The centennial of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the
18 United States Constitution, in 2020, offers still greater
19 opportunities for Washingtonians to commemorate and educate
20 themselves and future generations about the importance of voting and
21 civic engagement. Washingtonians and the many visitors to Washington
22 will benefit from learning about and becoming inspired by the
23 historic efforts of the women's right to vote movement in Washington
24 and throughout the nation and the subsequent impacts on life in
25 Washington and the United States.

26 Therefore, the legislature finds it beneficial to begin the
27 process of preparing for statewide commemoration from 2018 through
28 2020, of the centennial of the processes of congressional passage of
29 and states' legislative ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to
30 the United States Constitution, which established the right to vote
31 for American women.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) The women's commission must, subject
33 to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
34 purpose, work with the Washington women's history consortium to:

35 (a) Provide leadership for statewide commemoration from 2018
36 through 2020 of the centennial pertaining to the passage by congress
37 of the Nineteenth Amendment and its subsequent ratification by three-
38 fourths of the state legislatures in August 1920;

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

3 (i) Consulting with a wide variety of organizations,
4 institutions, public agencies, educational agencies and institutions,
5 tourism organizations, and the general public about the content and
6 conduct of this statewide commemoration;

7 (ii) Developing and encouraging others to develop a broad range
8 of widely available educational opportunities for Washingtonians
9 generally, students, and visitors, including significant online
10 educational resources, to:

11 (A) Learn about the importance of voting in the context of women
12 gaining the right to vote;

13 (B) Consider the subsequent long-term impacts of women gaining
14 the right to vote;

15 (C) Learn about the active leadership role of Washingtonians in
16 achieving the nationwide right to vote for women;

17 (D) Honor the countless participants in the women's suffrage
18 movement; and

19 (E) Inspire future generations to treasure their right to vote;

20 (iii) Planning, coordinating, and publicizing events and
21 informational materials for Washingtonians and visitors throughout
22 the state commemorating this centennial;

23 (c) Create and distribute a portfolio of public humanities
24 programs, and encourage others to do so, to engage Washingtonians and
25 visitors with important aspects of the women's right to vote
26 movement;

27 (d) Encourage private organizations, schools, institutions of
28 higher education, public agencies, and local governments to organize
29 and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of the
30 Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;

31 (e) Coordinate with the regional and national organizations and
32 agencies with respect to their commemorative work;

33 (f) Coordinate with the national collaborative for women's
34 history sites by contributing a Washington component to the
35 development of a nationwide votes for women trail; and

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

1 (2) The women's commission has the following powers and may
2 exercise them as necessary to carry out its duties under subsection
3 (1) of this section:

4 (a) Appoint task forces and advisory committees;

5 (b) Work with staff appointed by the Washington state historical
6 society; and

7 (c) Enter into agreements or contracts.

8 (3) Legislative members serving on any task force or advisory
9 committee created under this section must be reimbursed for travel
10 expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

11 (4) Representatives of state and local governments serving on any
12 task force or advisory committee created under this section must be
13 reimbursed pursuant to the reimbursement policies of their respective
14 entity.

15 (5) Nonlegislative members serving on any task force or advisory
16 committee created under this section are not entitled to be
17 reimbursed for travel expenses if they are elected officials or are
18 participating on behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other
19 organization. Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is
20 subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act
22 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 8 and 9 of this act expires July
24 1, 2021.

Passed by the House March 5, 2018.

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 15, 2018.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 16, 2018.

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