
HOUSE BILL 2837

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Boehnke and Hudgins; by request of Washington State Historical Society

Read first time 01/24/20. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding powers granted to state historical
2 societies; and amending RCW 27.34.070.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 27.34.070 and 2005 c 333 s 14 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Each state historical society is designated a trustee for the
7 state whose powers and duties include but are not limited to the
8 following:

9 (a) To collect, catalog, preserve, and interpret objects,
10 manuscripts, sites, photographs, and other materials illustrative of
11 the cultural, artistic, and natural history of this state;

12 (b) To operate state museums and assist and encourage cultural
13 and historical studies and museum interpretive efforts throughout the
14 state, including those sponsored by local historical organizations,
15 and city, county, and state agencies;

16 (c) To engage in cultural, artistic, and educational activities,
17 including classes, exhibits, seminars, workshops, and conferences if
18 these activities are related to the basic purpose of the society;

19 (d) To plan for and conduct celebrations of significant events in
20 the history of the state of Washington and to give assistance to and

1 coordinate with state agencies, local governments, and local
2 historical organizations in planning and conducting celebrations;

3 (e) To create one or more classes of membership in the society;

4 (f) To engage in the sale of various articles which are related
5 to the basic purpose of the society;

6 (g) To engage in appropriate fund-raising activities for the
7 purpose of increasing the self-support of the society;

8 (h) To accept gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises,
9 of real or personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise, and
10 sell, lease, exchange, invest, or expend the same or the proceeds,
11 rents, profits, and income therefrom except as limited by the donor's
12 terms. The governing boards of the state historical societies shall
13 adopt rules to govern and protect the receipt and expenditure of the
14 proceeds, rents, profits, and income of all such gifts, grants,
15 conveyances, bequests, and devises;

16 (i) To accept on loan or lend objects of historical interest, and
17 sell, exchange, divest itself of, or refuse to accept, items which do
18 not enhance the collection; (~~and~~)

19 (j) To charge general or special admission fees to its museums or
20 exhibits and to waive or decrease such fees as it finds appropriate;
21 and

22 (k) To strengthen cultural and historical organizations statewide
23 by providing grants at the discretion of the society in support of
24 organizational capacity building, public programming, educational
25 programming, outreach, collections management, and exhibitions as
26 funding allows.

27 (2) All objects, sites, manuscripts, photographs, and all
28 property, including real property, now held or hereafter acquired by
29 the state historical societies shall be held by the societies in
30 trust for the use and benefit of the people of Washington state.

31 (3) Each historical society is authorized to adopt rules under
32 chapter 34.05 RCW to carry out the policies and purposes of this
33 section.

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