AN ACT Relating to changing the membership of the legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force; and amending RCW 74.08A.505.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 74.08A.505 and 2018 c 126 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) A legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force is established, with voting members as provided in this subsection. Task force membership shall include diverse, statewide representation and its membership shall reflect regional, racial, and cultural diversity to adequately represent the needs of all children and families in the state.

(i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

(ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives.

(iii) The governor shall appoint eight members representing the following agencies: The department of social and health services; the department of children, youth, and families; the department of commerce; the employment security department; the office of the
superintendent of public instruction; the department of health; the
department of corrections; and the state board for community and
technical colleges.

(b) The task force shall choose its cochairs, one from among the
legislative members and one from among the executive branch members.
The secretary of the department of social and health services shall
convene the initial meeting of the task force.

(2) The governor shall appoint ((five)) eight nonvoting members
to the task force representing the:

   (a) (Commission) State commission on African American affairs;
   (b) State commission on Hispanic affairs;
   (c) State commission on Asian Pacific American affairs;
   (d) Governor's office of Indian affairs; ((and))
   (e) Women's commission;
   (f) LGBTQ commission;
   (g) Office of equity; and
   (h) Office of financial management.

(3) The cochairs of the intergenerational poverty advisory
committee created in RCW 74.08A.510 shall serve as nonvoting members
of the task force.

(4) The task force shall:

   (a) Oversee the partner agencies' operation of the WorkFirst
   program and temporary assistance for needy families program to ensure
   that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients;
   (b) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst
   program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of
   historically underrepresented populations, such as English language
   learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;
   (c) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and
   the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-
sufficiency;
   (d) Collaborate with the advisory committee created in RCW
   74.08A.510 to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address
   adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty;
   (e) Seek input on best practices for poverty reduction from
   service providers, community-based organizations, legislators, state
   agencies, stakeholders, the business community, and subject matter
   experts;
   (f) Collaborate with partner agencies and the advisory committee
to analyze available data and information regarding intergenerational
poverty in the state, with a primary focus on data and information regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle of poverty and welfare dependency unless outside intervention occurs; and

(g) Recommend policy actions to the governor and the legislature to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty and promote and encourage self-sufficiency.

(5)(a) The task force shall direct the department of social and health services to develop a five-year plan to reduce intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency, subject to oversight and approval by the task force. Upon approval by the task force, the department must submit the plan to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.

(b) The task force shall review the five-year plan by December 1, 2024, and shall direct the department to update the plan as determined necessary by the task force.

(6) The partner agencies must provide the task force with regular reports on:

(a) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome and performance measures established under this section;

(b) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of those trends and expenditures on client services, including services to historically underrepresented populations; and

(c) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful on the temporary assistance for needy families program and have lost their benefits either through sanction or the sixty-month time limit.

(7) Staff support for the task force, including administration of task force meetings, must be provided by the state agency members of the task force. Additional staff support for legislative members of the task force must be provided by senate committee services and the house of representatives office of program research.

(8) During their tenure, the state agency members of the task force shall respond in a timely manner to data requests from the cochairs.

(9) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they are elected officials or participating on behalf of an employer,
governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

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