

**SHB 2401 - H AMD 1980**

By Representative Dye

**NOT CONSIDERED 03/12/2026**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is  
4 necessary to establish a Washington state commission on boys and men  
5 to address systemic challenges facing boys, male youth, and men in  
6 Washington state.

7 The legislature finds that a successful society requires its  
8 institutions to recognize and respond to the distinct characteristics  
9 and needs of both males and females. The legislature finds that  
10 biological and developmental differences between males and females  
11 influence behaviors, learning, health, and social outcomes.

12 Disaggregated data by sex demonstrate that sustained efforts to  
13 expand opportunity for women and girls have resulted in significant  
14 gains and have strengthened Washington state and the nation. The  
15 legislature finds that the successful integration of girls and women,  
16 and the continued investments to ensure access for women required a  
17 whole-of-society recognition of the distinct social norms and  
18 biological characteristic differences that prevented previous  
19 generations of women from accessing opportunities.

20 The legislature further finds that many institutional frameworks  
21 have not sufficiently accounted for male-specific developmental,  
22 biological, and social needs, contributing to persistent disparities  
23 affecting boys and men in Washington state, including lower rates of  
24 postsecondary educational attainment and enrollment, disproportionate  
25 involvement in the juvenile and adult justice systems, higher rates  
26 of premature mortality, suicide, substance use disorder, unsheltered  
27 homelessness, and occupational injury, and lower overall life  
28 expectancy. These disparities have long-term consequences for  
29 individual opportunity, family formation and stability, and the  
30 economic and social health of communities.

31 The legislature finds that families are a foundational element of  
32 strong and resilient communities and that the well-being of boys,

1 male youth, and men is integral to family stability and civic life in  
2 Washington state. The legislature further finds that persistent  
3 systemic bias against boys and men, if left unexamined and  
4 unaddressed, constrains opportunity, weakens family and community  
5 outcomes, and results in long-term costs borne by the state.

6 The legislature further finds that boys and men experience  
7 persistent and measurable disparities across multiple systems. The  
8 legislature recognizes that educational disengagement, justice system  
9 involvement, health outcomes, and economic instability are  
10 interrelated and that disparities affecting boys and men are often  
11 compounded by cultural attitudes embedded in our institutions serving  
12 across the lifespans of Washingtonians.

13 Research demonstrates the importance of engaged fatherhood and  
14 parental involvement in positive outcomes for children. Children from  
15 father-absent households are twice as likely to drop out of high  
16 school compared with children in two-parent homes. Approximately 71  
17 percent of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. Children  
18 growing up without a father are four times more likely to live in  
19 poverty compared with those in two-parent families.

20 The legislature further finds that men experience worse health  
21 outcomes than women across many major indicators and that existing  
22 public health strategies have not consistently addressed male-  
23 specific prevention, early detection, and outreach needs,  
24 particularly in rural areas. Earlier mortality among men imposes  
25 significant costs on families, employers, and communities and  
26 warrants intentional, data-driven policy attention.

27 The legislature intends to establish the Washington state  
28 commission on boys and men to: Provide a structured, evidence-based  
29 forum to examine systemic, cultural, and institutional factors  
30 contributing to disparities affecting boys, male youth, and men;  
31 assess the effectiveness of existing laws, policies, and programs;  
32 and develop data-informed policy recommendations to improve outcomes  
33 for boys and men.

34 The legislature further intends that the commission's work  
35 complement, rather than diminish, existing efforts supporting women,  
36 families, and children, and that focused study of the challenges  
37 facing boys and men serve the broader goal of strengthening families,  
38 improving community well-being, and promoting long-term social and  
39 economic stability in Washington state.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The Washington state commission on  
2 boys and men is established in the office of the governor.

3        (2) The Washington state commission on boys and men consists of  
4 nine nonlegislative voting members, appointed as follows:

5        (a) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of  
6 representatives;

7        (b) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
8 representatives;

9        (c) Two members appointed by the president of the senate;

10       (d) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the senate;  
11 and

12       (e) One member appointed by the governor, with the advice and  
13 consent of the senate.

14       (3) Appointing authorities shall appoint individuals with  
15 demonstrated, credentialed subject matter expertise in one or more of  
16 the commission's focus areas, which may include education, workforce  
17 development, public health, behavioral health, housing stability,  
18 justice system involvement, family systems, or related fields.

19       (4) Appointments shall, to the extent practicable, reflect  
20 diverse professional perspectives and geographic regions of the  
21 state.

22       (5) Of the persons initially appointed to the Washington state  
23 commission on boys and men, three members shall be appointed for one-  
24 year terms, three members shall be appointed for two-year terms, and  
25 three members shall be appointed for three-year terms, as determined  
26 by lot. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for three-year terms.

27       (6) Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Washington  
28 state commission on boys and men must be filled for the remainder of  
29 the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

30       (7) The Washington state commission on boys and men shall elect a  
31 chair and a vice chair from among the voting membership.

32       (8) (a) Two members of the senate, one from each of the two  
33 largest caucuses of the senate, appointed by the president of the  
34 senate, and two members of the house of representatives, one from  
35 each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives,  
36 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, shall serve  
37 as nonvoting legislative advisory members.

38       (b) The terms for the legislative advisors are for approximately  
39 two years and expire before the first day of the legislative session  
40 in odd-numbered years. The position of a legislative advisory member

1 is deemed vacant if the member ceases to be a member of the house  
2 from which the member was appointed.

3 (9) Nonlegislative voting members serve without compensation but  
4 may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred in the  
5 performance of their duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and  
6 43.03.060. Legislative advisory members may be reimbursed for travel  
7 expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

8 (10) A simple majority of the voting members of the commission  
9 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state commission on  
11 boys and men shall appoint an executive director, who serves at the  
12 pleasure of the commission.

13 (2) The executive director is responsible for providing  
14 administrative, operational, and technical support to the Washington  
15 state commission on boys and men and shall carry out the policies,  
16 priorities, and directives established by the commission.

17 (3) The executive director may not establish policy positions,  
18 advocate on behalf of the Washington state commission on boys and  
19 men, or represent the commission's views independently of actions  
20 formally adopted by the commission.

21 (4) Subject to the availability of funds, the executive director  
22 may employ staff, enter into contracts, and obtain goods and services  
23 necessary to carry out the duties of the Washington state commission  
24 on boys and men, in accordance with state law and consistent with  
25 commission direction.

26 (5) The executive director shall attend Washington state  
27 commission on boys and men meetings and provide information and  
28 assistance necessary to support the commission's deliberations and  
29 decision making.

30 (6) The executive director shall perform such other  
31 administrative duties as assigned by the Washington state commission  
32 on boys and men consistent with this chapter.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The Washington state commission on  
34 boys and men is established to examine and evaluate the extent to  
35 which state laws, agency policies, administrative practices, and  
36 rules account for male-specific developmental, biological, and social  
37 needs, and to identify whether such frameworks contribute to  
38 measurable disparities affecting boys, male youth, and men.

1 (2) In carrying out its duties, the Washington state commission  
2 on boys and men shall consider boys, male youth, and men within the  
3 context of family and community systems, including the role of family  
4 formation, parental engagement, fatherhood, and family stability in  
5 educational attainment, public safety outcomes, health and well-  
6 being, workforce participation, and civic engagement.

7 (3) The Washington state commission on boys and men must assess  
8 the effects of existing statutes, policies, and administrative  
9 practices on boys, male youth, and men, including their implications  
10 for family stability, economic security, and participation in civic  
11 and community institutions, and develop evidence-based policy  
12 recommendations to improve institutional effectiveness and long-term  
13 social and civic outcomes.

14 (4) The Washington state commission on boys and men must, as the  
15 core focus of its work, examine and evaluate conditions affecting  
16 boys, male youth, and men in Washington state, including the  
17 following areas:

18 (a) Mental health, physical health, substance use disorder,  
19 addiction, suicide, and premature mortality, including risk factors,  
20 protective factors, prevention strategies, and opportunities for  
21 early identification and intervention;

22 (b) Educational development and attainment across the life  
23 course, including early childhood development, K-12 education,  
24 postsecondary education, and workforce preparation, and barriers to  
25 engagement, persistence, and completion at each stage;

26 (c) Workforce participation, career pathways, economic stability,  
27 and transitions from education to employment, including access to  
28 training, credentialing, and advancement opportunities;

29 (d) Successful family formation, parental engagement, and family  
30 stability, including the causes and effects of father absence and  
31 single parenting and the impacts of public policies on the ability to  
32 establish and sustain durable family relationships and household  
33 stability;

34 (e) Disproportionate involvement of boys and men in the juvenile  
35 and adult justice systems, including contributing factors, the  
36 preschool-to-prison pipeline, and evidence-based prevention,  
37 accountability, rehabilitation, and successful reentry strategies;

38 (f) Experiences of boys and men within public systems, including  
39 schools, health systems, housing systems, workforce programs, and

1 criminal, juvenile, and family courts, and opportunities to improve  
2 system responsiveness and outcomes;

3 (g) Risks related to the exploitation of vulnerable boys and men  
4 by malign actors, including through online platforms, social media,  
5 gaming environments, and other digital or virtual spaces, and the  
6 impacts of such exploitation on radicalization, coercive recruitment,  
7 trafficking, mental health, physical safety, and community well-  
8 being, including evidence-based prevention, resilience, and  
9 intervention strategies;

10 (h) Biological and developmental differences between males and  
11 females as they relate to behavior, learning, health, and social  
12 outcomes, including evaluation of the extent to which state laws,  
13 policies, and practices account for such differences while avoiding  
14 bias and stereotypes; and

15 (i) Systemic, cultural, and institutional factors embedded in  
16 state laws, agency policies, administrative practices, and rules that  
17 may contribute to disparities affecting boys, male youth, and men in  
18 the areas identified in this subsection (4).

19 (5) In carrying out its duties, the Washington state commission  
20 on boys and men must:

21 (a) Collect, analyze, and report disaggregated data relevant to  
22 the areas identified in subsection (4) of this section;

23 (b) Consult with state agencies, subject matter experts,  
24 community organizations, and other relevant stakeholders;

25 (c) Serve as a clearinghouse for relevant research, data, and  
26 best practices;

27 (d) Hold public hearings; and

28 (e) Provide policy recommendations to the governor and the  
29 legislature.

30 (6) The commission shall submit a biennial report to the  
31 legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

32 (7) State agencies shall provide reasonable assistance to the  
33 commission upon request.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The Washington state commission on  
35 boys and men may solicit, receive, accept, and expend gifts, grants,  
36 endowments, and other funds from public or private sources consistent  
37 with this chapter.

1 (2) The Washington state commission on boys and men may enter  
2 into agreements with public and private entities for the purpose of  
3 carrying out its duties under this chapter.

4 (3) The office of financial management shall, upon request of the  
5 commission, identify projected operating costs by fiscal year and  
6 provide technical assistance related to fiscal planning, budgeting,  
7 and expenditure tracking.

8 (4) The commission may adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as  
9 necessary to carry out this chapter.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The commission on boys and men account is  
11 created in the custody of the state treasurer. All gifts, grants, and  
12 other nonstate contributions received for the commission must be  
13 deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be used only  
14 for purposes consistent with this chapter. Only the executive  
15 director of the Washington state commission on boys and men or the  
16 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.  
17 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation, except  
18 for gifts, grants, or donations from private sources, which may be  
19 expended without appropriation unless otherwise required by law.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act  
21 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW."

22 Correct the title.

EFFECT: • Renames the commission the Washington State Commission  
on Boys and Men (Commission).

• Establishes the Commission in the Office of the Governor,  
rather than as a stand-alone agency.

• Removes the contingent effective date based on the Office of  
Financial Management receiving sufficient funds to fully cover all  
operational costs of the Commission through 2029 and strikes related  
provisions, and instead makes the Commission active 90 days after  
enactment.

• Modifies the composition of the Commission's membership and  
appointing authorities of such members, but maintains the number of  
members at nine.

• Changes the appointment of the Executive Director of the  
Commission from the Governor to the members of the Commission, and  
modifies duties and the authority of the Executive Director.

• Modifies the scope of the Commission's work to examine the  
extent to which laws, regulations, and agency policies and practices  
contribute to measurable disparities affecting boys, male youth, and  
men in the areas of health, education, workforce participation,  
fatherhood and family formation, criminal justice and other court  
system involvement, housing, and exploitation in digital or virtual

spaces (rather than advocating for policies that decrease isolation and loneliness in boys and men, and defining specific needs of all men and boys with an emphasis on men and boys of color, those in rural locations, those who identify as LGBTQ, and those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged).

- Replaces the intent section with new legislative findings and intent.

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