
**State Government & Tribal Relations
Committee**

HB 2401

Brief Description: Establishing the boys and men commission.

Sponsors: Representatives Berg, Stearns, Valdez, Leavitt, Parshley, Zahn, Richards, Scott, Paul, Ramel, Fey, Pollet, Macri, Nance, Reed, Timmons, Reeves, Bernbaum, Walen and Hall.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Washington State Boys and Men Commission (Commission), contingent upon the receipt of nonstate contributions in an amount sufficient to fully fund the Commission's operational costs through December 31, 2029.

Hearing Date: 1/23/26

Staff: Desiree Omli (786-7105).

Background:

State law establishes a variety of agencies that focus on the needs of underrepresented populations and those with lived experience. Many of these agencies focus on areas of health, safety, education, economic well-being, and increased access to government services, with an overarching goal of removing systemic barriers that lower health outcomes and the well-being of Washingtonians.

Examples of these agencies are the:

- Commission on Hispanic Affairs, which aids in the development of public policy and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community by identifying needs and defining issues, advising on policies, and establishing community and cross-sector

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- relationships;
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, which promotes the government-to-government relationship between the State of Washington and Indian Tribes, advocates for the social and economic betterment of all American Indians and Alaska Natives living within Washington, and educates for a greater cultural understanding of the state's first citizens;
 - LGBTQ Commission, which works to improve the state's interface with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, and intersex community, identify the needs of its members, and ensure that there is an effective means of advocating for LGBTQ equity in all aspects of state government;
 - Commission on African American Affairs, which advises the Governor and Legislature regarding policies that promote equal opportunity for African Americans.
 - Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, which seeks to improve the lives of Asian Pacific Americans in the state by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas;
 - Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment, which advocates for the disability community to obtain equity in economic opportunity and community inclusion;
 - Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, which works to connect veterans and their family members to the benefits and services they earned through their military service, and to improve the quality of life for veterans and their families;
 - Washington State Women's Commission, which works to ensure that state policies and programs reflect and respond to the real needs of women and girls, particularly those from historically excluded communities; and
 - Office of Equity, which leads the statewide effort to embed equity and justice into the work of state agencies.

Summary of Bill:

The Washington State Boys and Men Commission (Commission) is established as a stand-alone agency, contingent upon the receipt of nonstate contributions in an amount sufficient to fully fund the Commission's operational costs through December 31, 2029. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) must, by June 30, 2026, determine the amount by fiscal year that would be necessary to fully fund the operating costs of the Commission through December 31, 2029. The OFM must also seek nonstate contributions, place any contributions received into the newly created Boys and Men Commission Account, and notify interested parties whether sufficient funds have been received to fully cover the Commission's operational costs through December 31, 2029.

The Commission would consist of nine members appointed by the Governor. At least one member must be from a federally recognized Indian tribe. The Governor must consider nominations for membership based on maintaining a balanced and diverse distribution of ethnicity, geographic representation, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and occupational representation, but the majority of members must self-identify as male to maintain sufficient representation of individuals with direct lived experience. The Commission is administered by an executive director.

The Commission is responsible for:

- providing a clearinghouse for information regarding legislation relevant to the purpose of the Commission;
- identifying and defining specific needs of men and boys of color, those in rural locations, those who identify as LGBTQ, and those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged;
- consulting with state agencies regarding the effect of agency actions on the unique problems and needs of men and boys;
- advising agencies on the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs that focus on the unique needs of men and boys;
- holding public hearings to gather input on issues relevant to its body of work;
- advocating for policies that increase the sense of belonging and decrease isolation and loneliness experienced by men and boys; and
- submitting a report every two years, beginning December 31, 2029, on the Commission's activities.

The Commission may solicit and receive grants, gifts, and endowments from public or private sources, and adopt rules as needed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 19, 2026.

Effective Date: The bill contains multiple effective dates. Please see the bill.