
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2401

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Berg, Stearns, Valdez, Leavitt, Parshley, Zahn, Richards, Scott, Paul, Ramel, Fey, Pollet, Macri, Nance, Reed, Timmons, Reeves, Bernbaum, Walen, and Hall)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the boys and men commission;
2 reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040 and 43.79A.040; adding a new
3 chapter to Title 43 RCW; providing an effective date; providing an
4 expiration date; and providing contingent expiration dates.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is important
7 for all Washingtonians to thrive. The legislature finds that on many
8 fronts men and boys struggle at a higher rate. Boys are struggling in
9 school, with a lower average grade point average and a growing gap in
10 graduation rates. Additionally, boys make up 94 percent of the
11 population of juvenile rehabilitation. These issues are exacerbated
12 for boys of color. As boys transition into adulthood, these problems
13 continue to persist. Men make up 71 percent of the unsheltered
14 population and 63 percent of people experiencing homelessness. Men
15 also account for 79 percent of suicides. The legislature finds that
16 addressing men's issues and improving the emotional well-being of men
17 and increasing their sense of belonging will have a positive impact
18 on larger societal issues such as loneliness, isolation, and gender-
19 based violence.

20 The legislature further finds that the development of public
21 policy and the efficient delivery of governmental services to meet

1 the needs of boys and men can be improved by establishing a focal
2 point in state government focused on the well-being of men and boys.
3 This includes but is not limited to increasing pathways to work and
4 education, increasing physical and mental health support, and
5 addressing the pervasive crisis of loneliness.

6 Therefore, the legislature deems it necessary to establish in
7 statute the boys and men commission to further these purposes. The
8 boys and men commission shall address issues relevant to the problems
9 and needs of boys and men including improving physical and mental
10 health outcomes, reducing stigma around mental health treatment, and
11 expanding access to meaningful education, vocational, and mentorship
12 opportunities. The boys and men commission shall address the
13 challenges faced by all boys and men with an emphasis on boys and men
14 of color, those in rural locations, those who identify as LGBTQ, and
15 those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged and often find
16 themselves left out of important conversations regarding their well-
17 being and future.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state boys and men
19 commission is established contingent upon the receipt of gifts,
20 grants, or other nonstate contributions in an amount sufficient to
21 fully fund the boys and men commission's operational costs through
22 December 31, 2029, including all associated administrative costs or
23 costs to contract for work to carry out the purposes and provisions
24 of this act.

25 (2) By June 30, 2026, the office of financial management must:

26 (a) Identify the amounts, by fiscal year, necessary to fully fund
27 the operating costs of the boys and men commission from July 1, 2026,
28 through December 31, 2029; and

29 (b) Notify the governor, the chief clerk of the house of
30 representatives, the secretary of the senate, the state treasurer,
31 the office of the code reviser, and other interested parties of these
32 amounts.

33 (3) Prior to the establishment of the boys and men commission,
34 the office of financial management or its designee may seek and
35 receive gifts, grants, and other contributions from nonstate sources
36 to carry out the provisions of subsection (1) of this section. Any
37 amounts received for this purpose must be individually tracked by the
38 office of financial management and deposited into the boys and men
39 commission account.

1 (4) This section expires upon the office of financial management
2 receiving gifts, grants, or other nonstate contributions in an amount
3 sufficient to fully fund the boys and men commission's operational
4 costs through December 31, 2029, and providing notice in accordance
5 with section 10 of this act that such condition has been met, or on
6 January 1, 2030, whichever occurs later.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state boys and men
8 commission is established.

9 (2) (a) The boys and men commission shall consist of nine members
10 appointed by the governor, with at least one member being a tribal
11 chair, board member, councilmember, or enrolled member from a
12 federally recognized Indian tribe.

13 (b) The governor shall consider nominations for membership based
14 upon maintaining a balanced and diverse distribution of ethnic,
15 geographic, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and
16 occupational representation, where practicable. The majority of
17 members shall be male to maintain sufficient representation of
18 individuals with direct lived experience on the boys and men
19 commission.

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

33 (4) Two members of the senate, one from each of the two major
34 political parties, appointed by the president of the senate, and two
35 members of the house of representatives, one from each of the two
36 major political parties, appointed by the speaker of the house of
37 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 boys and men commission's membership
7 constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The boys and men commission shall be
9 administered by an executive director, who shall be appointed by, and
10 serve at the pleasure of, the governor. The governor shall set the
11 salary of the executive director.

12 (2) The executive director shall:

13 (a) Employ the staff of the boys and men commission;

14 (b) Monitor state legislation and advocate for legislation
15 affecting men and boys;

16 (c) Work with state agencies to assess programs and policies that
17 affect men and boys;

18 (d) Coordinate with the minority commissions, LGBTQ commission,
19 and women's commission to address issues of mutual concern; and

20 (e) Work as a liaison between the public and private sector to
21 ensure vocational pathways for men and boys.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The boys and men commission shall have
23 the following duties:

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

26 (b) Identify and define specific needs of all men and boys with
27 an emphasis on men and boys of color, those in rural locations, those
28 who identify as LGBTQ, and those who are socioeconomically
29 disadvantaged, and provide recommendations for addressing those needs
30 in the biennial report to the legislature and governor under (g) of
31 this subsection;

32 (c) Consult with state agencies regarding the effect of agency
33 policies, procedures, practices, laws, and administrative rules on
34 the unique problems and needs of men and boys. The boys and men
35 commission shall also advise such state agencies on the development
36 and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans,
37 and programs focusing on those problems and needs;

1 (d) Provide resource and referral information to agencies and the
2 public. The boys and men commission may gather data and disseminate
3 information to the public in order to implement the purposes of this
4 chapter;

5 (e) Hold public hearings to gather input on issues related to the
6 unique problems and needs of men and boys. The boys and men
7 commission must include in the biennial report submitted under (g) of
8 this subsection the input received and recommendations for addressing
9 the problems and needs discussed at the public hearings;

10 (f) Advocate for policies that increase the sense of belonging
11 and decreases isolation and loneliness in boys and men; and

12 (g) Submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
13 legislature and the governor by December 31, 2029, and every two
14 years thereafter detailing the boys and men commission's activities.
15 The report submitted must be in electronic format pursuant to RCW
16 43.01.036.

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

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The boys and men commission have the
22 following powers:

23 (1) Solicit and receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public
24 or private sources that are made for the use or benefit of the boys
25 and men commission and to expend the same or any income therefrom
26 according to their terms and the purpose of this chapter. Amounts
27 received must be deposited into the boys and men commission account.
28 The boys and men commission's executive director shall make a report
29 of such funds received from private sources to the office of
30 financial management on a regular basis. Amounts received from
31 private sources must supplement and may not supplant amounts
32 appropriated by the legislature, but shall be used for projects and
33 functions authorized by this chapter but not funded by legislative
34 appropriation; and

35 (2) Adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The boys and men commission account is
37 created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from
38 gifts, grants, and endowments received by the boys and men commission

1 must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may
2 be used only for the purposes of sections 3 through 5 of this act.
3 Only the executive director of the boys and men commission or the
4 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The
5 account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,
6 but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

7 **Sec. 8.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2025 c 399 s 13 and 2025 c 190 s 3
8 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

9 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited,
10 invested, and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with
11 RCW 43.84.080 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the
12 money were in the state treasury, and may be commingled with moneys
13 in the state treasury for cash management and cash balance purposes.

14 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust
15 fund must be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be
16 known as the investment income account.

17 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment
18 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds
19 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and
20 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state
21 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to
22 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to
23 financial institutions. Payments must occur prior to distribution of
24 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

25 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer must distribute the earnings
26 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund
27 except under (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection.

28 (b) The following accounts and funds must receive their
29 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's
30 average daily balance for the period: The 24/7 sobriety account, the
31 Washington promise scholarship account, the Gina Grant Bull memorial
32 legislative page scholarship account, the Rosa Franklin legislative
33 internship program scholarship account, the Washington advanced
34 college tuition payment program account, the Washington college
35 savings program account, the accessible communities account, the
36 Washington achieving a better life experience program account, the
37 Washington career and college pathways innovation challenge program
38 account, the community and technical college innovation account, the
39 agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment

1 fund, the behavioral health loan repayment and scholarship program
2 account, the Billy Frank Jr. national statuary hall collection fund,
3 the foster care scholarship endowment fund, the foster care endowed
4 scholarship trust fund, the contract harvesting revolving account,
5 the Washington state combined fund drive account, the county 911
6 excise tax account, the county road administration board emergency
7 loan account, the toll collection account, the developmental
8 disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account, the energy
9 facility site evaluation council account, the fair fund, the family
10 and medical leave insurance account, the Fern Lodge maintenance
11 account, the fish and wildlife federal lands revolving account, the
12 natural resources federal lands revolving account, the food animal
13 veterinarian conditional scholarship account, the forest health
14 revolving account, the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the
15 educator conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative
16 account, the GET ready for math and science scholarship account, the
17 Washington global health technologies and product development
18 account, the grain inspection revolving fund, the Washington history
19 day account, the industrial insurance rainy day fund, the law
20 enforcement officers' and firefighters' plan 2 expense fund, the
21 local tourism promotion account, the low-income home rehabilitation
22 account, the medication for people living with HIV rebate revenue
23 account, the homeowner recovery account, the multiagency permitting
24 team account, the northeast Washington wolf-livestock management
25 account, the pollution liability insurance program trust account, the
26 public use general aviation airport loan revolving account, the
27 regional transportation investment district account, the rural
28 rehabilitation account, the Washington sexual assault kit account,
29 the stadium and exhibition center account, the youth athletic
30 facility account, the self-insurance revolving fund, the children's
31 trust fund, the Washington horse racing commission Washington bred
32 owners' bonus fund and breeder awards account, the Washington horse
33 racing commission class C purse fund account, the individual
34 development account program account, the Washington horse racing
35 commission operating account, the life sciences discovery fund, the
36 Washington state library-archives building account, the reduced
37 cigarette ignition propensity account, the center for deaf and hard
38 of hearing youth account, the school for the blind account, the
39 public employees' and retirees' insurance reserve fund, the school
40 employees' benefits board insurance reserve fund, the public

1 employees' and retirees' insurance account, the school employees'
2 insurance account, the long-term services and supports trust account,
3 the radiation perpetual maintenance fund, the Indian health
4 improvement reinvestment account, the department of licensing tuition
5 recovery trust fund, the student achievement council tuition recovery
6 trust fund, the tuition recovery trust fund, the industrial insurance
7 premium refund account, the mobile home park relocation fund, the
8 natural resources deposit fund, the Washington state health insurance
9 pool account, the federal forest revolving account, the Washington
10 saves administrative trust account, the boys and men commission
11 account, and the library operations account.

12 (c) The following accounts and funds must receive 80 percent of
13 their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or
14 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advance right-of-way
15 revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving
16 account, the federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high
17 occupancy vehicle account, the local rail service assistance account,
18 and the miscellaneous transportation programs account.

19 (d) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts
20 or funds not statutorily required to be held in the custody of the
21 state treasurer that deposits funds into a fund or account in the
22 custody of the state treasurer pursuant to an agreement with the
23 office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share
24 of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance
25 for the period.

26 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state
27 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings
28 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

29 **Sec. 9.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2025 c 399 s 14 and 2025 c 190 s 4
30 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

31 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited,
32 invested, and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with
33 RCW 43.84.080 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the
34 money were in the state treasury, and may be commingled with moneys
35 in the state treasury for cash management and cash balance purposes.

36 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust
37 fund must be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be
38 known as the investment income account.

1 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment
2 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds
3 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and
4 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state
5 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to
6 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to
7 financial institutions. Payments must occur prior to distribution of
8 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

9 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer must distribute the earnings
10 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund
11 except under (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection.

12 (b) The following accounts and funds must receive their
13 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's
14 average daily balance for the period: The 24/7 sobriety account, the
15 Washington promise scholarship account, the Gina Grant Bull memorial
16 legislative page scholarship account, the Rosa Franklin legislative
17 internship program scholarship account, the Washington advanced
18 college tuition payment program account, the Washington college
19 savings program account, the accessible communities account, the
20 Washington achieving a better life experience program account, the
21 Washington career and college pathways innovation challenge program
22 account, the community and technical college innovation account, the
23 agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment
24 fund, the behavioral health loan repayment and scholarship program
25 account, the Billy Frank Jr. national statuary hall collection fund,
26 the foster care scholarship endowment fund, the foster care endowed
27 scholarship trust fund, the contract harvesting revolving account,
28 the Washington state combined fund drive account, the county 911
29 excise tax account, the county road administration board emergency
30 loan account, the toll collection account, the developmental
31 disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account, the energy
32 facility site evaluation council account, the fair fund, the family
33 and medical leave insurance account, the Fern Lodge maintenance
34 account, the fish and wildlife federal lands revolving account, the
35 natural resources federal lands revolving account, the food animal
36 veterinarian conditional scholarship account, the forest health
37 revolving account, the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the
38 educator conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative
39 account, the GET ready for math and science scholarship account, the
40 Washington global health technologies and product development

1 account, the grain inspection revolving fund, the Washington history
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10 rural rehabilitation account, the Washington sexual assault kit
11 account, the stadium and exhibition center account, the youth
12 athletic facility account, the self-insurance revolving fund, the
13 children's trust fund, the Washington horse racing commission
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15 Washington horse racing commission class C purse fund account, the
16 individual development account program account, the Washington horse
17 racing commission operating account, the life sciences discovery
18 fund, the Washington state library-archives building account, the
19 reduced cigarette ignition propensity account, the center for deaf
20 and hard of hearing youth account, the school for the blind account,
21 the public employees' and retirees' insurance reserve fund, the
22 school employees' benefits board insurance reserve fund, the public
23 employees' and retirees' insurance account, the school employees'
24 insurance account, the long-term services and supports trust account,
25 the radiation perpetual maintenance fund, the Indian health
26 improvement reinvestment account, the department of licensing tuition
27 recovery trust fund, the student achievement council tuition recovery
28 trust fund, the tuition recovery trust fund, the industrial insurance
29 premium refund account, the mobile home park relocation fund, the
30 natural resources deposit fund, the Washington state health insurance
31 pool account, the federal forest revolving account, the Washington
32 saves administrative trust account, the boys and men commission
33 account, and the library operations account.

34 (c) The following accounts and funds must receive 80 percent of
35 their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or
36 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advance right-of-way
37 revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving
38 account, the federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high
39 occupancy vehicle account, the local rail service assistance account,
40 and the miscellaneous transportation programs account.

1 (d) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts
2 or funds not statutorily required to be held in the custody of the
3 state treasurer that deposits funds into a fund or account in the
4 custody of the state treasurer pursuant to an agreement with the
5 office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share
6 of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance
7 for the period.

8 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state
9 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings
10 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) Sections 3 through 6 of this act take
12 effect upon the receipt of funds in the boys and men commission
13 account in an amount sufficient to fully fund the boys and men
14 commission's operational costs from that date until December 31,
15 2029, including all associated administrative costs or costs to
16 contract for work to carry out this chapter, pursuant to section 2 of
17 this act.

18 (2) If the condition under subsection (1) of this section is met
19 on or before December 31, 2029, the office of financial management
20 shall notify affected parties, the governor, the chief clerk of the
21 house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of
22 the code reviser, and others deemed appropriate of the date the
23 condition was met.

24 (3) If, by January 1, 2030, the condition under subsection (1) of
25 this section has not been met:

26 (a) The office of financial management shall notify affected
27 parties, the governor, the chief clerk of the house of
28 representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of the code
29 reviser, and others deemed appropriate that the condition was not met
30 and shall return all nonpublic contributions received prior to that
31 date to the individual or entity making the original contribution;
32 and

33 (b) Sections 1 through 7 of this act expire.

34 (4) This section expires upon the conditions under subsections
35 (1) and (2) of this section being met, or on January 1, 2030,
36 whichever occurs later.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 7 and 10 of this act
38 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Section 8 of this act expires July 1,
2 2030.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Section 9 of this act takes effect July
4 1, 2030.

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