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**HOUSE BILL 2401**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**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 01/13/26. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

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 mental health support, and addressing the  
5 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 mental health outcomes,  
10 reducing stigma around mental health treatment, and expanding access  
11 to meaningful education, vocational, and mentorship opportunities.  
12 The boys and men commission shall place an emphasis on addressing the  
13 challenges faced by boys and men of color, those in rural locations,  
14 those who identify as LGBTQ, and those who are socioeconomically  
15 disadvantaged and often find themselves left out of important  
16 conversations regarding their well-being and future.

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

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

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

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

32 (3) Prior to the establishment of the boys and men commission,  
33 the office of financial management or its designee must seek and  
34 receive gifts, grants, and other contributions from nonstate sources  
35 to carry out the provisions of subsection (1) of this section. Any  
36 amounts received for this purpose must be individually tracked by the  
37 office of financial management and deposited into the boys and men  
38 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 self-identify as male to maintain sufficient  
18 representation of individuals with direct lived experience on the  
19 boys and men 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 men and boys of color,  
27 those in rural locations, those who identify as LGBTQ, and those who  
28 are socioeconomically disadvantaged, and provide recommendations for  
29 addressing those needs in the biennial report to the legislature and  
30 governor under (g) of this subsection;

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

37 (d) Provide resource and referral information to agencies and the  
38 public. The boys and men commission may gather data and disseminate

1 information to the public in order to implement the purposes of this  
2 chapter;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The boys and men commission account is  
35 created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from  
36 gifts, grants, and endowments received by the boys and men commission  
37 must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may  
38 be used only for the purposes of sections 3 through 5 of this act.

1 Only the executive director of the boys and men commission or the  
2 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The  
3 account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,  
4 but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment  
38 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds  
39 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and

1 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state  
2 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to  
3 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to  
4 financial institutions. Payments must occur prior to distribution of  
5 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

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

9 (b) The following accounts and funds must receive their  
10 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's  
11 average daily balance for the period: The 24/7 sobriety account, the  
12 Washington promise scholarship account, the Gina Grant Bull memorial  
13 legislative page scholarship account, the Rosa Franklin legislative  
14 internship program scholarship account, the Washington advanced  
15 college tuition payment program account, the Washington college  
16 savings program account, the accessible communities account, the  
17 Washington achieving a better life experience program account, the  
18 Washington career and college pathways innovation challenge program  
19 account, the community and technical college innovation account, the  
20 agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment  
21 fund, the behavioral health loan repayment and scholarship program  
22 account, the Billy Frank Jr. national statuary hall collection fund,  
23 the foster care scholarship endowment fund, the foster care endowed  
24 scholarship trust fund, the contract harvesting revolving account,  
25 the Washington state combined fund drive account, the county 911  
26 excise tax account, the county road administration board emergency  
27 loan account, the toll collection account, the developmental  
28 disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account, the energy  
29 facility site evaluation council account, the fair fund, the family  
30 and medical leave insurance account, the Fern Lodge maintenance  
31 account, the fish and wildlife federal lands revolving account, the  
32 natural resources federal lands revolving account, the food animal  
33 veterinarian conditional scholarship account, the forest health  
34 revolving account, the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the  
35 educator conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative  
36 account, the GET ready for math and science scholarship account, the  
37 Washington global health technologies and product development  
38 account, the grain inspection revolving fund, the Washington history  
39 day account, the industrial insurance rainy day fund, the law  
40 enforcement officers' and firefighters' plan 2 expense fund, the

1 local tourism promotion account, the low-income home rehabilitation  
2 account, the medication for people living with HIV rebate revenue  
3 account, the homeowner recovery account, the multiagency permitting  
4 team account, the northeast Washington wolf-livestock management  
5 account, the public use general aviation airport loan revolving  
6 account, the regional transportation investment district account, the  
7 rural rehabilitation account, the Washington sexual assault kit  
8 account, the stadium and exhibition center account, the youth  
9 athletic facility account, the self-insurance revolving fund, the  
10 children's trust fund, the Washington horse racing commission  
11 Washington bred owners' bonus fund and breeder awards account, the  
12 Washington horse racing commission class C purse fund account, the  
13 individual development account program account, the Washington horse  
14 racing commission operating account, the life sciences discovery  
15 fund, the Washington state library-archives building account, the  
16 reduced cigarette ignition propensity account, the center for deaf  
17 and hard of hearing youth account, the school for the blind account,  
18 the public employees' and retirees' insurance reserve fund, the  
19 school employees' benefits board insurance reserve fund, the public  
20 employees' and retirees' insurance account, the school employees'  
21 insurance account, the long-term services and supports trust account,  
22 the radiation perpetual maintenance fund, the Indian health  
23 improvement reinvestment account, the department of licensing tuition  
24 recovery trust fund, the student achievement council tuition recovery  
25 trust fund, the tuition recovery trust fund, the industrial insurance  
26 premium refund account, the mobile home park relocation fund, the  
27 natural resources deposit fund, the Washington state health insurance  
28 pool account, the federal forest revolving account, the Washington  
29 saves administrative trust account, the boys and men commission  
30 account, and the library operations account.

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

38 (d) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts  
39 or funds not statutorily required to be held in the custody of the  
40 state treasurer that deposits funds into a fund or account in the

1 custody of the state treasurer pursuant to an agreement with the  
2 office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share  
3 of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance  
4 for the period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Section 8 of this act expires July 1,  
37 2030.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 13.**    Section 9 of this act takes effect July  
2    1, 2030.

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