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HOUSE BILL 2575

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Wood, J. Kohl, Ballasiotes, Kessler, Johanson, Forner, L. Johnson, Brough, Dyer, R. Fisher, Thibaudeau, Shin, Silver, Schmidt, Scott and Long

Read first time 01/17/94. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an equity in dissolution task force;  
2 and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter RCW to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The equity in dissolution task force is established for the  
7 purposes of developing strategies for analyzing the financial  
8 consequences on older women and men caused by the dissolution of long-  
9 term marriages, reducing the economic impacts of dissolution on the  
10 former spouses of such marriages, and ensuring equity in the  
11 distribution of assets in order to keep older people from becoming  
12 impoverished and dependent upon tax paid support and charitable  
13 organizations.

14 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following thirteen  
15 members: The governor or the governor's designee; the secretary of the  
16 department of social and health services or the secretary's designee;  
17 two representatives from each caucus of the house of representatives to  
18 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; two  
19 representatives from each caucus of the senate to be appointed by the

1 president of the senate; a representative from a major senior citizen's  
2 public policy organization; and two representatives from the general  
3 public. The task force shall select its chair from among the thirteen  
4 members. Staffing for the task force shall be provided by the office  
5 of financial management.

6 (3) The task force shall:

7 (a) Review the concerns, needs, and financial burdens of older  
8 people resulting from the dissolution of long-term marriages, including  
9 food, shelter, and heat and other utilities; clothing and personal care  
10 items; medical, dental, and vision care; transportation; income,  
11 property, and other taxes; entertainment and subscriptions; vacations,  
12 gifts, and pet care; miscellaneous household costs; and death expenses;

13 (b) Analyze the purposes and justifications for sharing future  
14 income, including delayed compensation for sacrifices in earning  
15 potential as a result of assuming a homemaker role in the marriage;  
16 lost opportunity costs on the basis of what could be earned in  
17 occupations forsaken to assume a homemaking, child rearing, and  
18 community building role; and partnership entitlements considering  
19 future earning capacities developed through the efforts of both  
20 spouses;

21 (c) Develop comprehensive policy guidelines and procedures for the  
22 implementation of distribution arrangements that ensure equitable  
23 shares that adequately meet the ongoing interests of both former  
24 spouses to a long-term marriage, including fair consideration of future  
25 bonuses; retirement benefits; disability payments; social security  
26 benefits; cost-of-living increases; and other future income;

27 (d) Create a spousal support guide and worksheet similar to the  
28 current child support schedule and child support order summary report  
29 form;

30 (e) Research efforts made by other states to ensure appropriate and  
31 adequate care is taken to address the needs of older people after a  
32 long-term marriage is dissolved; and

33 (f) Report its final findings and recommendations to the  
34 legislature no later than December 15, 1994, including any legislation  
35 the task force finds necessary for the implementation of the findings  
36 and recommendations.

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