

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1251

Eliminating and consolidating boards, commissions and programs

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/5/99

Rep(s) Milosch Erickson

Sponsor(s)

Staff Scott MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7106

BACKGROUND:

The Governor and the Office of Financial Management are required to review state boards and commissions every odd-numbered year and submit to the Legislature a recommended list of boards and commissions for termination or consolidation. In 1995-1996, Washington had 381 boards and commissions, down from a high of 569 in 1991-1992. Each board or commission operates in conjunction with reports to a particular state agency or to the Governor's office.

SUMMARY:

33 Boards, commissions, and committees are either repealed or abolished. These are the Health Care Assistance Advisory Committee, Dietetic and Nutrition Advisory Committee, Health Professions Advisory Committee, Washington State Council on Vocational Education, Public Information, Public Information Access, Politysk Force, Rural Development, Tax Advisory Council, Advisory Council on Criminal Justice Services, Senior Environmental Coordination, Washington Conservation Corps, Coordinating Council on Washington Center Policy, Puget Sound, and Emerging Fisheries Advisory Board, Shenandoah River Committee, Participating Agencies Seal, and a committee on the Lower Columbia River. Bi-State Steering Committee and the Business Job Retention Advisory Committee.

In addition, three advisory boards from the Department of Fish and Wildlife are abolished. The advisory and search committees in the Department of Corrections are abolished, and the Athletic Regulation Program is abolished.

By July 1, 1999, the Community Diversification Program Advisory Committee shall be abolished by the director of the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, the Community Networks Committee shall be abolished by the director of the Department of Services for the Blind.

The regulatory requirements for justicelicensees by the state are abolished, and the authority for inspection and investigation of justicelicensees is transferred to the office of the attorney general.

The State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers merged with the Cemetery Board to form a single board, the Funeral and Cemetery Board. The Funeral and Cemetery Board undertakes regulatory functions formerly regulated by the two separate boards. Other changes made to the statutes regarding the two boards are as follows:

- Moves authority for expiration of licenses to the director of the Department of Licensing.
- Creates funeral and cemetery account with the state treasury.
- A requirement added to the statute requires notification of a proposed removal of a dedication of cemetery property that is dedicated for cemetery purposes. Notification now required of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for abandoned and historic cemeteries and historic graves. Cemeteries regulated by the funeral and cemetery board.
- Transfers authority on historic graves to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Transfers the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation authority to pursue violations against anyone who violates provisions of the cemetery laws.

FISCANOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1999