
HOUSE BILL 1839

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Kenney, Kessler, Hankins, Linville, Cody, McDonald, Sommers, Santos, Darneille, Haigh, Schual-Berke, Talcott, Skinner, Clibborn, Morrell, Dickerson, Wallace, Chase, Lantz, Green, Upthegrove, Hasegawa, Kagi and Sells

Read first time 02/08/2005. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a women's history consortium; adding
2 new sections to chapter 27.34 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington state
5 is widely recognized as being a steady leader in advancing rights and
6 opportunities for women in all spheres of life. The legislature
7 declares its intent to initiate the establishment of a Washington
8 women's history consortium. This will improve the availability of
9 historical information about the many actions taken by Washingtonians
10 which have resulted in such notable and influential achievements for
11 women and girls, for use by citizens, educators, researchers, and
12 historians.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A women's history consortium is created
14 with the Washington state historical society as the managing agency.
15 To ensure geographic, demographic, and subject matter diversity, the
16 consortium shall be managed by a board of advisors representing a range
17 of perspectives, including private citizens, business, labor,

1 historical societies, colleges and universities, educators, tribes, and
2 public officials. Appointment of the board of advisors must be
3 completed by September 30, 2005.

4 (2) The consortium is attached to the Washington state historical
5 society as the managing agency. Accordingly, the agency shall:

6 (a) Direct and supervise the budgeting, recordkeeping, recording,
7 and related administrative and clerical functions of the consortium;

8 (b) Include the consortium's budgetary requests in the society's
9 departmental budget;

10 (c) Collect all nonappropriated revenues for the consortium and
11 deposit them in the proper fund or account;

12 (d) Provide staff support for the consortium;

13 (e) Print and disseminate for the consortium any required notices,
14 rules, or orders adopted by the consortium; and

15 (f) Allocate or otherwise provide office space for the consortium
16 as may be necessary.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The board of advisors shall consist of
18 fifteen members. The governor shall appoint eleven members to the
19 board of advisors. Two members of the senate, one each representing
20 the two largest caucuses of the senate, shall be appointed by the
21 president of the senate, and two members of the house of
22 representatives, one each representing the two largest caucuses of the
23 house of representatives shall be appointed by the speaker of the house
24 of representatives.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Key responsibilities of the board of
26 advisors include:

27 (1) Organizational and fiscal planning, management, and oversight;

28 (2) Adopting criteria and procedures for consortium membership and
29 member responsibilities;

30 (3) Identifying short-term and long-term priorities of the
31 consortium, with special emphasis on short-term priorities relating to
32 preserving historical information from the last several decades before
33 it is lost;

34 (4) Appointing special committees and task forces including people
35 from consortium members and nonmembers to assist with the consortium's
36 tasks; and

1 (5) Developing recommendations for statewide commemoration of the
2 centennial of the adoption in 1910 of the fifth amendment to the
3 Washington state Constitution, guaranteeing women's suffrage.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Within available resources, the consortium
5 responsibilities include:

6 (1) Compiling a comprehensive index of existing historically
7 relevant materials and making it available in electronic and print
8 form;

9 (2) Identifying topics, historical periods, materials, or
10 activities not well represented in publicly accessible collections and
11 developing strategies for making them publicly available;

12 (3) Encouraging collection and preservation of materials important
13 to understanding Washington women's history, with special emphasis on
14 the last several decades;

15 (4) Referring potential donors of historical materials to
16 appropriate museums, archives, libraries, and other organizations
17 throughout the state;

18 (5) Developing protocols for protection of donations, loans,
19 leases, and purchases of historically relevant materials;

20 (6) Encouraging exhibit development and sharing among member
21 organizations and others;

22 (7) Encouraging public access and educational institution access to
23 women's history information, materials, and exhibits;

24 (8) Seeking private donations to assist with consortium work;

25 (9) Developing a concept for a grant program;

26 (10) Developing a volunteer program; and

27 (11) Encouraging development of curriculum materials.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The consortium board of advisors shall
29 provide a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
30 December 1, 2006, addressing the following:

31 (1) Progress on activities identified in sections 4 and 5 of this
32 act; and

33 (2) Consortium needs and plans for the future.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The consortium shall provide a report to the

1 governor and the legislature by September 1, 2006, regarding
2 recommendations for commemorating the 2010 centennial of the women's
3 suffrage amendment to the state Constitution.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act are each
5 added to chapter 27.34 RCW.

--- END ---