
SENATE BILL 5381

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Parlette, McAuliffe, Pridemore, Rockefeller, Brown, Rasmussen, Schoesler, Shin, Haugen, Schmidt, Keiser and Kline; by request of Governor Gregoire

Read first time 01/24/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington academy of sciences; adding a new
2 chapter to Title 70 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that public policies
5 and programs will be improved when informed by independent scientific
6 analysis and communication with state and local policymakers.
7 Throughout the state there are highly qualified persons in a wide range
8 of scientific disciplines who are willing to contribute their time and
9 expertise in such reviews, but that presently there is lacking an
10 organizational structure in which the entire scientific community may
11 most effectively respond to requests for assessments of complex public
12 policy questions. Therefore it is the purpose of this act to authorize
13 the creation of the Washington academy of sciences as a nonprofit
14 entity independent of government, whose principal mission will be the
15 provision of scientific analysis and recommendations on questions
16 referred to the academy by the governor or the governor's designee.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington academy of sciences
18 authorized to be formed under section 3 of this act shall serve as a

1 principal source of scientific investigation, examination, and
2 reporting on scientific questions referred to the academy by the
3 governor under the provisions of section 4 of this act. Nothing in
4 this section or this chapter supersedes or diminishes the
5 responsibilities performed by scientists employed by the state or its
6 political subdivisions.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The presidents of the University of
8 Washington and Washington State University shall jointly form and serve
9 as the cochairs of an organizing committee for the purpose of creating
10 the Washington academy of sciences as an independent entity to carry
11 out the purposes of this chapter. The committee should be
12 representative of appropriate disciplines from the academic, private,
13 governmental, and research sectors.

14 (2) Staff from the University of Washington and Washington State
15 University, and from other available entities, shall provide support to
16 the organizing committee under the direction of the cochairs.

17 (3) The committee shall investigate organizational structures that
18 will ensure the participation or membership in the academy of
19 scientists and experts with distinction in their fields, and that will
20 ensure broad participation among the several disciplines that may be
21 called upon in the investigation, examination, and reporting upon
22 questions referred to the academy by the governor.

23 (4) The committee cochairs shall use their best efforts to form the
24 committee by January 1, 2006, and to complete the committee's review by
25 April 30, 2007. By April 30, 2007, the committee, or such individuals
26 as the committee selects, shall file articles of incorporation to
27 create the academy as a Washington independent organizational entity.
28 The articles shall expressly recognize the power and responsibility of
29 the academy to provide services as described in section 4 of this act
30 upon request of the governor or the governor's designee. The articles
31 shall also provide for a board of directors of the academy that
32 includes distinguished scientists from the range of disciplines that
33 may be called upon to provide such services to the state and its
34 political subdivisions, and provide a balance of representation from
35 the academic, private, governmental, and research sectors.

36 (5) The articles shall provide for all such powers as may be

1 appropriate or necessary to carry out the academy's purposes under this
2 chapter, to the full extent allowable under the proposed organizational
3 structure.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The academy shall investigate, examine,
5 and report on any subject of science requested by the governor or the
6 governor's designee. The procedures for selecting panels of experts to
7 respond to such requests shall be set forth in the bylaws or other
8 appropriate operating guidelines. In forming review panels, the
9 academy shall endeavor to assure that the panel members have no
10 conflicts of interest and that proposed panelists first disclose any
11 advocacy positions or financial interest related to the questions to be
12 addressed by the panel that the candidate has held within the past ten
13 years.

14 (2) The governor shall provide funding to the academy for the
15 actual expense of such investigation, examination, and reports. Such
16 funding shall be in addition to state funding assistance to the academy
17 in its initial years of operation as described in section 6 of this
18 act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The academy may carry out functions or
20 provide services to its members and the public in addition to the
21 services provided under section 4 of this act, such as public education
22 programs, newsletters, web sites, science fairs, and research
23 assistance.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The organizational committee shall recommend
25 procedures and funding requirements for receiving and disbursing
26 funding in support of the academy's programs and services in a report
27 to the governor and the appropriate committees of the senate and house
28 of representatives no later than April 30, 2007.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute
30 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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