

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESHB 1052

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to modifying the legislative youth advisory council.

Brief Description: Modifying the legislative youth advisory council.

Sponsors: By House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Upthegrove, Hudgins, Pedersen, P. Sullivan, Wallace and Morris).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Affairs: 1/16/07, 1/19/07 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/5/07, 89-6.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 4/10/07, 44-4.

House Concurred.

Passed House: 4/16/07, 90-5.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Changes appointment procedure to the Legislative Youth Advisory Council (Council) to an application process with final selection made by the Lieutenant Governor.
- Allows for soliciting and accepting of grants and donations to support the activities of the Council.
- Extends the termination date of the Council to June 30, 2009.
- Establishes the Civic Education Travel Grant Program to provide travel grants to students participating in civic education competitions or events.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Appleton, Vice Chair; Chandler, Ranking Minority Member; Armstrong, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Green, Kretz, McDermott, Miloscia and Ormsby.

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

In 2005, the Legislative Youth Advisory Council (Council) was established to examine issues of importance to youth, including education, employment, civic engagement, and health. The Council has 22 members and members must be between the ages of 14 and 18 years.

Duties of the Council consist of advising the Legislature on legislation, policy and budget matters relating to youth; advising standing committees, commissions and task forces on issues related to youth; conducting periodic seminars for its members on leadership, government, and the Legislature; and submitting annual reports to the Legislature with any recommendations for legislation. The Council meets between three and six times a year.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction administers the program. The program expires June 30, 2007.

Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill:

By July 2, 2007, appointments to the Council are made through an application process, rather than by appointment. Interested students may apply by completing an online application and submitting it to the Council. The Council recommends applicants to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for final selection, and the Lieutenant Governor shall notify all applicants of the final selections.

The Council may accept grants and donations from public and private sources to support its activities.

Consideration shall be given to conducting some of the Council's meeting via the K-20 telecommunications network. The Council is encouraged to invite state legislators to participate in the meetings. The Council also is encouraged to poll other students on issues and to use technology to conduct the polling.

The Civic Education Travel Grant Program is created to provide travel grants to students participating in statewide, regional, national, or international civic education competitions or events. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall allocate the grants through a competitive program to students who meet the following criteria:

- must be residents of the state;
- must use the grants to fund travel to civic education-based competitions or events; and
- must be under the age of 21 and not yet in receipt of a high school diploma.

Students are encouraged to seek matching funds, in-kind contributions, or other sources of support to supplement their travel expenses.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is authorized to accept gifts, grants, or endowments from public or private sources to support the Civic Education Travel Grant Program.

The termination date for the Council is extended to June 30, 2009.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The Legislative Youth Advisory Council is an opportunity for those citizens who are not old enough to vote to participate in the process. The Council recommends that the minimum age limit be lowered from 14 to 12 years, that it be authorized to accept grants and donations, and that legislative members be represented on the Council to better communicate Council priorities and allow for better access to the Legislature. The priorities identified by the Council include this bill, changing the Washington Assessment of Student Learning requirements for the class of 2008, provisional voting for 16 year olds, and a later school start time.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction supports the bill as it allows youth to participate in the legislative environment.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Upthegrove, prime sponsor; Kate Berry and Alex Jonlin, Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council; and Isabel Munoz-Colon, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.