
HOUSE BILL 2007

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Appleton, Hudgins, Jinkins, Johnson, Kilduff, Senn, Tarleton, Frame, Stonier, Stambaugh, Lytton, Macri, Robinson, Ormsby, Doglio, Slatter, and Pollet

Read first time 02/07/17. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to commemorating the centennial of national
2 women's suffrage; adding a new chapter to Title 27 RCW; and providing
3 an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS AND INTENT. On August 26, 1920,
6 with the action of the Tennessee legislature, the Nineteenth
7 Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified,
8 guaranteeing women throughout the country the right to vote. The
9 introduction, passage, and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment
10 were the result of decades of work and struggle by women's voting
11 rights advocates, throughout the United States, with people from
12 Washington state providing significant leadership.

13 In 1854, six years after the landmark women's rights convention
14 in Seneca Falls, New York, the Washington territorial legislature
15 initially considered enacting women's right to vote. Susan B. Anthony
16 visited Washington Territory in 1871, and addressed the Washington
17 Territorial Legislature, the first woman in the country to address a
18 legislative body. This spurred the creation of many women's right to
19 vote associations in Washington and in other states.

20 State women's right to vote legislation eventually passed the
21 Washington Territorial Legislature twice, but each time was found

1 unconstitutional by the Territorial Supreme Court. With the 1910
2 approval of a state constitutional amendment by the male voters of
3 the state, Washington became the first state in the twentieth
4 century, and the fifth state overall, to enact women's right to vote
5 at the state level.

6 In 2009, the state of Washington posthumously awarded its highest
7 honor, the medal of merit, to the two key leaders of the Washington
8 women's right to vote movement, Emma Smith DeVoe and Mae Arkwright
9 Hutton.

10 The path to women's suffrage was blazed by western states.
11 Washington followed Wyoming (1890), Colorado (1893), Utah (1870), and
12 Idaho (1896), and was immediately succeeded by California (1911) and
13 Oregon (1912), in establishing women's right to vote.

14 Washington was a major leader in the movement for nationwide
15 women's right to vote. Washington was the first state in the
16 twentieth century to fully enfranchise women, and inspired the
17 nationwide campaign that soon brought success in many western states
18 and the territory of Alaska, culminating in the Nineteenth Amendment
19 to the United States Constitution providing for women throughout the
20 country to vote.

21 In 2010, the Washington women's history consortium provided
22 leadership for statewide commemoration of the centennial of
23 Washington state women's right to vote, sponsoring and coordinating a
24 wide range of activities, including preparation of a major traveling
25 exhibit.

26 The centennial of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the
27 United States Constitution, in 2020, offers still greater
28 opportunities for Washingtonians to commemorate and educate
29 themselves about the importance of voting and civic engagement, the
30 historic efforts of the women's right to vote movement in Washington
31 and throughout the country, and the subsequent impacts of
32 enfranchising women on life in Washington and the United States.

33 Therefore, the legislature finds it beneficial to begin the
34 process of preparing for statewide commemoration in 2020 of the
35 centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States
36 Constitution, which established the right to vote for women
37 throughout the country.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DUTIES OF CONSORTIUM. The Washington
39 women's history consortium shall:

1 (1) Provide leadership for a 2020 statewide commemoration of the
2 centennial of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the
3 United States Constitution;

4 (2) Immediately begin preparations for this statewide
5 commemoration, to include but not be limited to:

6 (a) Consulting with a wide variety of organizations,
7 institutions, public agencies, and the general public about the
8 content and conduct of this statewide commemoration;

9 (b) Developing and encouraging others to develop educational
10 opportunities for the public to learn about the active leadership
11 role of Washingtonians in achieving the nationwide right to vote for
12 women;

13 (c) Developing and encouraging educational opportunities about
14 the importance of voting in the context of women gaining the right to
15 vote;

16 (d) Developing and encouraging educational opportunities about
17 the subsequent long-term impacts of women gaining the right to vote;
18 and

19 (e) Planning, coordinating, and publicizing events and
20 informational materials throughout the state commemorating this
21 centennial;

22 (3) Create and distribute a portfolio of public humanities
23 programs, and encourage others to also do this, to engage the
24 citizens of Washington with important aspects of the women's right to
25 vote movement;

26 (4) Encourage private organizations and local governments to
27 organize and participate in activities commemorating the centennial
28 of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

29 (5) Administer a grant program for public agencies, educational
30 institutions, and organizations exempt from taxation under Title 26
31 Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code to assist with
32 their commemoration activities.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** POWERS OF CONSORTIUM. The consortium has
34 the following powers, and may exercise them as necessary to carry out
35 its duties:

36 (1) To appoint task forces or advisory committees;

37 (2) To work with staff appointed by the Washington state
38 historical society;

39 (3) To enter into agreements or contracts; and

1 (4) To solicit, accept, use, and dispose of grants and gifts.

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** REIMBURSEMENT. (1) Legislative members
3 serving on the consortium or any task forces or advisory committees
4 created to further the purpose of the consortium must be reimbursed
5 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

6 (2) State and local government agency members must be reimbursed
7 pursuant to the reimbursement policies of their respective agency or
8 institution.

9 (3) Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for
10 travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on
11 behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization.
12 Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to
13 chapter 43.03 RCW.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** REPORT TO GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE. The
15 consortium must report annually by December 1st to the governor and
16 the legislature on the work of the consortium, together with any
17 recommendations to the governor and legislature.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** EXPIRATION DATE. This chapter expires July
19 1, 2021.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act
21 constitute a new chapter in Title 27 RCW.

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