

**E2SHB 2870** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Labor & Commerce

**NOT ADOPTED 03/09/2020**

1       Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 69.50  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5       (1) A study group on social equity in marijuana is established.  
6 The purpose of the study group is to make recommendations to the  
7 legislature, governor, and board including but not limited to  
8 establishing a social equity program for retail marijuana licensing,  
9 and to advise the governor and the legislature on policies that will  
10 facilitate development of a marijuana social equity program.

11       (2) The governor shall appoint:

12       (a) One member from each of the following:

13       (i) The commission on African American affairs;

14       (ii) The commission on Hispanic affairs;

15       (iii) An organization representing the African American community;

16       (iv) An organization representing the Latinx community;

17       (v) The liquor and cannabis board;

18       (vi) The department of commerce;

19       (vii) The office of the attorney general; and

20       (viii) The association of Washington cities; and

21       (b) Three members that currently hold a marijuana retail license.

22       (3) In addition to the members appointed to the study group  
23 under subsection (2) of this section, individuals representing other  
24 sectors may be invited by the governor to participate in an advisory  
25 capacity in meetings.

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1 (a) Individuals participating in an advisory capacity under this  
2 subsection are not members of the study group, may not vote, and are  
3 not subject to the appointment process established in this section.

4 (b) There is no limit to the number of individuals who may  
5 participate in study group's meetings in an advisory capacity under  
6 this subsection.

7 (c) A majority of the study group members constitutes a quorum.  
8 If a member has not been designated for a position set forth in this  
9 section, that position may not be counted for the purpose of  
10 determining a quorum.

11 (4) The study group shall hold its first meeting by July 1, 2020  
12 and shall elect a chair from among its members at the first meeting  
13 by a majority vote of the members who are present at the meeting.  
14 The chair of the study group is responsible for arranging subsequent  
15 meetings and developing meeting agendas.

16 (5) Staff support for the study group, including arranging the  
17 first meeting and assisting the chair in arranging subsequent  
18 meetings, must be provided by the office of the governor.

19 (6) The expenses of the study group must be paid by the office  
20 of the governor.

21 (7) Members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel  
22 expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on  
23 behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization.  
24 Any reimbursement is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

25 (8) The study group is a class one group under chapter 43.03 RCW.

26 (9) A public comment period must be provided at every meeting.

27 (10) The study group shall submit a report on recommended  
28 policies that will facilitate the development of a marijuana social  
29 equity program in Washington to the governor and the appropriate  
30 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2020. The  
31 recommendations must include whether any additional marijuana  
32 licenses should be issued beyond the total number of marijuana  
33 licenses that have been issued as of the effective date of this  
34 section.

1 (11) This section expires June 30, 2021.

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EFFECT: Removes all provisions from the bill and creates a study group on marijuana social equity with members appointed by the governor. The group will be staffed by the governor's staff. The study group shall submit a report, on recommended policies that will facilitate the development of a marijuana social equity program and must include whether any additional marijuana licenses should be issued in Washington, to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2020.

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