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**HOUSE BILL 2120**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Vick, Shea, Walsh, Barkis, Klippert, Volz, MacEwen, Corry, Irwin, Stokesbary, Kraft, Hoff, Harris, Kretz, and Van Werven

Read first time 02/25/19. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a work group to study and make  
2 recommendations on a statue to replace the Vladimir Lenin statue;  
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there is a  
6 rich history in the United States and the state of Washington that  
7 often may have competing narratives depending on the perspectives and  
8 values of the individuals telling the story. Monuments are often  
9 created to reinforce and elevate particular narratives and so it is  
10 imperative that the state of Washington and the nation continue to  
11 engage in revisiting the historical figures of our state and the  
12 nation.

13 (2) The legislature finds that under rigorous, objective review  
14 Vladimir Lenin does not meet the standards of being one of our  
15 state's top honorees with a statue display in Seattle.

16 (3) The legislature finds that Vladimir Lenin:

17 (a) Was the influence behind Article 58 of the Criminal Code of  
18 the Russian soviet federative socialist republic, which stated that  
19 treason of the motherland by a counter-revolutionary shall be  
20 punishable by shooting and confiscation of all property, removal of

1 citizenship, and that failure to denounce a counter-revolutionary was  
2 punishable by deprivation of liberty for six months;

3 (b) Was the principal actor behind the Red Terror of 1917 to  
4 1922, that resulted in the death of more than 100,000 people. Targets  
5 of the Red Terror were members of the White Army and even people who  
6 did not explicitly support the Soviet regime. This led to the slogan  
7 of the Bolsheviks: "Who is not with us, is against us." Killings were  
8 carried out by bringing people into courtyards in large groups and  
9 machine gunning them to death. It was also not uncommon to force  
10 prisoners to dig their own graves. The Red Terror also served as  
11 inspiration for other red terrors in Hungary, Spain, Greece,  
12 Ethiopia, China, and parts of India.

13 (c) Was supportive of involuntary population transfers on the  
14 basis of economic class. Lenin targeted a group known as the Kulaks,  
15 or more affluent peasants. The Kulaks were removed from their homes,  
16 their property was seized, and they were forced to resettle somewhere  
17 else. Between 1930 and 1931, between one million six hundred thousand  
18 and one million eight hundred thousand Kulaks were forcibly  
19 resettled. Around four hundred thousand died during that period.

20 (d) Was responsible for the ethnic atrocities committed by the  
21 Soviet Union including six million people who were internally  
22 displaced between 1930 and 1959, of whom three million five hundred  
23 thousand were ethnic minorities. A total of one million to one  
24 million five hundred thousand died as a result of forced  
25 resettlement.

26 (e) Was responsible for the deportation and genocide of Crimean  
27 Tatars and Chechens, as recognized by the European Parliament.

28 (f) Was responsible for the atrocities committed by the Cheka  
29 inside and outside of the Gulags. Including sending people to Gulags  
30 for three years for arriving late to work three times, twenty-five  
31 years for telling jokes about Communist Party officials, and ten  
32 years for petty theft. The Cheka forced prisoners in the Gulag to  
33 work for fourteen hours a day of hard labor, performing tasks such as  
34 mining for copper by hand and digging at the icy ground with  
35 primitive pickaxes. Female prisoners were often raped by guards, and  
36 when victims became pregnant, their children were often taken from  
37 them never to be seen again. People often starved because they were  
38 barely given enough food to survive, and were given even less if they  
39 did not provide as much iron while they were mining. The Cheka  
40 carried out brutal torture techniques including tying enemies to

1 planks and slowly feeding them into furnaces or tanks of boiling  
2 water, it was also common for the skin to be peeled off of their  
3 hands to create "gloves." Victims would also be rolled around naked  
4 in barrels with internally placed nails and then stoned to death  
5 afterwards.

6 (4) The legislature intends to request a replacement of the  
7 statue of Vladimir Lenin in the Fremont neighborhood of Seattle.  
8 Therefore, the legislature intends to create a work group to make  
9 recommendations regarding an appropriate replacement for the Vladimir  
10 Lenin statue. Any recommendation from the work group created under  
11 section 2 of this act is nonbinding.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A work group is created to study and  
13 make recommendations on an appropriate historical figure to replace  
14 the statue of Lenin and to represent the state of Washington on the  
15 street corner in Fremont where the statue of Lenin is currently  
16 located.

17 (2) The work group membership shall be composed of:

18 (a) The director of the department of archaeology and historic  
19 preservation, or his or her designee, who shall serve as the chair of  
20 the work group and provide staff support for the commission;

21 (b) One member from each of the four major caucuses of the  
22 legislature, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives  
23 and the president of the senate;

24 (c) The director of the Washington state historical society, or  
25 his or her designee;

26 (d) The mayor of Seattle, or his or her designee;

27 (e) The director of the city of Seattle office of arts and  
28 culture;

29 (f) A representative from the legacy Washington program at the  
30 office of the secretary of state, selected by the secretary of state;  
31 and

32 (g) Four representatives from the public, appointed by the  
33 governor.

34 (3) The department of archaeology and historic preservation shall  
35 provide staff support to the work group created under this section.

36 (4) The work group shall:

37 (a) Conduct at least five meetings throughout the state, at least  
38 two of which must be held on the east side of the Cascade mountains.  
39 The purpose of the meetings is to study and review Washington state

1 history and recommend three individuals who, after a rigorous and  
2 objective review, are worthy of representing the state of Washington;  
3 (b) Include the names of the individuals recommended pursuant to  
4 (a) of this subsection and their qualifications in the report  
5 required under subsection (5) of this section;  
6 (c) Include in its report required under subsection (5) of this  
7 section recommendations for the arts commission concerning the  
8 selection of a sculptor for the new statue;  
9 (d) Provide information regarding the anticipated funding needed  
10 for:  
11 (i) The design, carving, or casting of the statue;  
12 (ii) The design or fabrication of the pedestal;  
13 (iii) An unveiling ceremony, if desired, or other expenses that  
14 may be necessary for the statue replacement;  
15 (iv) Temporarily erecting the new statue before the unveiling  
16 ceremony, if desired; and  
17 (e) Make recommendations regarding the funding sources that may  
18 be available, which may include solicitation of private funds or a  
19 method for obtaining necessary funds.  
20 (5) Legislative members of the work group shall be reimbursed for  
21 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
22 members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with  
23 chapter 43.03 RCW. The expenses of the work group must be paid by the  
24 department of archaeology and historic preservation. The expenditures  
25 of the work group are subject to approval by the department of  
26 archaeology and historic preservation.  
27 (6) The work group shall submit a report of its recommendations  
28 to the appropriate committees of the legislature in accordance with  
29 RCW 43.01.036 by November 1, 2019.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires November 1, 2020.

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