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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1340**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** House Community & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Lovick, Harris, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Taylor, Wicks, Dolan, Ramel, Valdez, Leavitt, Goodman, J. Johnson, Chopp, Orwall, Santos, Peterson, Gregerson, Shewmake, Davis, Ormsby, Berg, Bronoske, Duerr, Fey, Bateman, Lekanoff, Senn, Callan, Frame, Pollet, Harris-Talley, and Macri)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of the statewide pandemic  
2 preparation and response task force; creating new sections; and  
3 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:

6 (a) In 2020, the world faced an enormous challenge in responding  
7 to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Washington was no exception,  
8 having been the site of the first confirmed coronavirus infection in  
9 the United States;

10 (b) Washington's response to the pandemic was one of the best in  
11 the nation; however, the state must conduct a comprehensive after-  
12 action review of the response to identify lessons learned, implement  
13 corrective actions, and devise new strategies for preparing for  
14 future outbreaks;

15 (c) This important work is critical to public health and safety;

16 (d) A task force of professionals from across the spectrum of  
17 affected stakeholders should be assembled to coordinate the after-  
18 action review and recommend actions the state can implement to  
19 improve pandemic response. The knowledge and experience of each field  
20 will be necessary for an effective study of Washington's response to

1 the novel coronavirus pandemic and the creation of future response  
2 plans; and

3 (e) The lessons learned from both the pandemic response and the  
4 pandemic recovery could identify gaps that would inform next steps  
5 for preparedness strategies that could be implemented for a pandemic  
6 and potentially other all-hazards preparedness strategies that would  
7 benefit Washington state.

8 (2) The legislature intends that:

9 (a) The scope of the task force's authority be interpreted  
10 broadly to allow for the most complete analysis of pandemic response,  
11 using established national standards for conducting emergency or  
12 disaster after-action reviews, and to provide lessons learned and  
13 recommendations to the legislature; and

14 (b) The report produced by the task force be informative and  
15 comprehensive and include lessons learned and recommendations that  
16 will inform preparedness and response at all levels of government.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A task force to conduct a  
18 comprehensive after-action review of the statewide pandemic response  
19 and recovery is established. The task force is composed of the  
20 following members:

21 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the  
22 senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

23 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
24 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
25 representatives;

26 (c) The secretary of the department of health, or the secretary's  
27 designee;

28 (d) The adjutant general of the military department, or the  
29 adjutant general's designee;

30 (e) The commissioner of the employment security department, or  
31 the commissioner's designee;

32 (f) The director of the department of financial institutions, or  
33 the director's designee;

34 (g) The insurance commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

35 (h) The secretary of the department of social and health  
36 services, or the secretary's designee;

37 (i) The superintendent of public instruction, or the  
38 superintendent's designee;

1 (j) The director of the department of labor and industries, or  
2 the director's designee;

3 (k) The director of the department of commerce, or the director's  
4 designee;

5 (l) The director of the department of enterprise services, or the  
6 director's designee;

7 (m) The secretary of the department of transportation, or the  
8 secretary's designee;

9 (n) The director of the department of licensing, or the  
10 director's designee;

11 (o) The director of the office of financial management, or the  
12 director's designee;

13 (p) The director of the health care authority, or the director's  
14 designee;

15 (q) The executive director of the pharmacy quality assurance  
16 commission, or the executive director's designee;

17 (r) One member representing the Washington association of  
18 sheriffs and police chiefs;

19 (s) One member representing the association of Washington  
20 businesses; and

21 (t) Additional members to be appointed by the governor, as  
22 follows:

23 (i) One member representing the office of the governor;

24 (ii) One member representing the association of Washington  
25 cities;

26 (iii) One member representing the Washington state association of  
27 counties;

28 (iv) One member representing emergency and transitional housing  
29 providers;

30 (v) One member representing a statewide association representing  
31 physicians;

32 (vi) One member representing a statewide association representing  
33 nurses;

34 (vii) One member representing a statewide association  
35 representing hospitals;

36 (viii) One member representing community health centers;

37 (ix) Two members representing local public health officials;

38 (x) Two members representing local emergency management agencies,  
39 one member located west of the Cascade mountains and one member  
40 located east of the Cascade mountains;

1 (xi) At least one member representing federally recognized  
2 tribes; and

3 (xii) Up to 10 members representing demographic groups that have  
4 been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, that  
5 include, but are not limited to, individuals of different race,  
6 class, gender, ethnicity, and immigration status;

7 (xiii) One member representing leisure and hospitality  
8 industries;

9 (xiv) One member representing education services; and

10 (xv) One member representing manufacturing and trade industries.

11 (2) The adjutant general, or the adjutant general's designee, and  
12 the secretary of the department of health, or the secretary's  
13 designee, shall cochair the task force and convene its initial  
14 meeting.

15 (3) (a) The task force shall conduct a comprehensive after-action  
16 review of the COVID-19 pandemic response in accordance with  
17 established national standards for emergency or disaster after-action  
18 review. In order to improve the response to and recovery from future  
19 pandemics, the task force shall develop lessons learned and make  
20 recommendations that include, but are not limited to, the following:

21 (i) Aspects of the COVID-19 response that may inform future  
22 pandemic and all-hazards responses;

23 (ii) Emergency responses that would benefit the business  
24 community and workers during a pandemic;

25 (iii) Standards regarding flexible rent and repayment plans for  
26 residential and commercial tenants during a pandemic;

27 (iv) Whether establishing regional emergency management agencies  
28 would benefit Washington state emergency response to future  
29 pandemics;

30 (v) Gaps and needs for volunteers to support medical  
31 professionals in performing their pandemic emergency response  
32 functions within Washington state;

33 (vi) Gaps and needs for tools to measure the scale of the impact  
34 caused by a pandemic and tailoring the pandemic response to affected  
35 regions based on the scale of the impact in those regions;

36 (vii) Gaps and needs in health care system capacity and case  
37 tracking, monitoring, control, isolation and quarantine, and  
38 deploying medical supplies and personnel; and

39 (viii) Implementing guidelines for school closures during a  
40 pandemic.

1 (b) The topics identified in (a) of this subsection are intended  
2 to be illustrative and not exhaustive. The task force should consider  
3 issues relating to equity, disparities, and discrimination in each  
4 topic it studies and for which it makes recommendations.

5 (4) Staff support for the task force must be provided jointly by  
6 the military department and the department of health. The military  
7 department and the department of health may employ staff and  
8 contracted support.

9 (5) The task force shall consult with owners of small businesses,  
10 epidemiologists, and representatives of immigrant communities.

11 (6) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for  
12 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
13 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they  
14 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,  
15 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for  
16 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

17 (7) The task force shall report its initial findings and  
18 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
19 legislature by July 1, 2022. The task force shall report its final  
20 findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate  
21 committees of the legislature by July 1, 2023.

22 (8) This section expires August 1, 2023.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
24 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
25 provided by June 30, 2021, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
26 act is null and void.

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