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**HOUSE BILL 1802**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Pollet, Frame, Wicks, Paul, Bateman, Callan, Davis, Goodman, Leavitt, Taylor, Macri, Peterson, Ramel, Ryu, Orwall, Wylie, Simmons, Valdez, Walen, Dolan, Stonier, Ortiz-Self, Riccelli, Harris-Talley, and Kloba

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1 AN ACT Relating to increasing access and representation in  
2 policy-making processes for individuals with disabilities; adding new  
3 sections to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that people  
6 with disabilities are often left out of the policy decisions that  
7 affect them most. People with disabilities have lived experience  
8 navigating societal barriers and are therefore best equipped to find  
9 solutions. According to the centers for disease control and  
10 prevention, one in five Washingtonians have a disability;  
11 approximately 22 percent of the state population. The disability  
12 community is the one minority group that individuals can join at any  
13 point in their life and has been described by the United States  
14 department of labor as the largest minority group in the country. As  
15 such, the disability community is extremely diverse and made up of  
16 people with many different identities and experiences. People with  
17 disabilities face greater hardships finding and maintaining  
18 employment that pays a living wage, attaining higher education, and  
19 finding places to live. The poverty rate for people with disabilities  
20 in Washington is 20 percent, which is nearly twice the rate for  
21 people without disabilities. In addition, people with disabilities

1 are employed at less than half the rate of people without  
2 disabilities despite the fact that with reasonable accommodations  
3 people with disabilities thrive in the workplace. As a result, many  
4 individuals rely on a fixed income and public benefits. Because  
5 people with disabilities make less money, and their income is often  
6 supplemented by the government, they may have trouble finding places  
7 to live. This causes many people with disabilities to rely on  
8 affordable housing solutions which are not always accessible. People  
9 with disabilities, particularly people with intellectual and  
10 developmental disabilities, fight negative stereotypes, stigma, and  
11 ableism every day in order to live dignified and autonomous lives. It  
12 is essential that people with disabilities have the opportunity to  
13 participate in and guide decision-making processes on policies and  
14 practices that impact their lives.

15 (2) The legislature finds people with disabilities are almost  
16 entirely unrepresented in policy making yet are disproportionately  
17 impacted by government decisions. Access is an equity issue and by  
18 addressing barriers to participation for people with disabilities the  
19 greater public will also benefit. A governing body that makes  
20 decisions about disability cannot do so effectively without the  
21 participation and contribution of those who have lived experience  
22 with disabilities.

23 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to ensure meaningful  
24 participation from people with disabilities on each statutorily  
25 created or mandated task force, work group, advisory committee, or  
26 other entity tasked with examining policies or issues affecting  
27 people with disabilities. When people with disabilities have a seat  
28 at the table, Washington thrives.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04  
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) The membership of any statutory entity, as defined in  
32 subsection (4) of this section, must meet the following requirements:

33 (a) At least three of the statutory entity's members or 30  
34 percent of the statutory entity's membership, whichever is higher,  
35 must be people with disabilities who have direct lived experience  
36 with the identified issue being addressed by the statutory entity;  
37 and

38 (b) The membership of the entity must reflect the diversity of  
39 people with lived experience with disabilities, including members

1 from different parts of the state with differing cultural and  
2 economic circumstances as well as the combination of these identities  
3 and experiences.

4 (2) The requirement in subsection (1)(a) of this section must  
5 include participation by people with intellectual and developmental  
6 disabilities when the issues being addressed directly and tangibly  
7 relate to services or conditions relating to this population.

8 (3) The statute law committee shall include in any published bill  
9 drafting guide reference to the requirements in subsection (1) of  
10 this section.

11 (4) As used in this section, "statutory entity" means any  
12 statutorily created or statutorily mandated task force, work group,  
13 advisory committee, or other entity created in or mandated by  
14 statute, the membership of which includes nonlegislative members and  
15 that is tasked with examining policies and issues related directly  
16 and tangibly to people with disabilities. "Statutory entity" does not  
17 include legislative select committees or other statutorily created  
18 legislative entities composed of only legislative members.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04  
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) The chief clerk of the house of representatives and the  
22 secretary of the senate shall, in consultation with the governor's  
23 committee on disability issues and employment, the Washington state  
24 developmental disabilities council, and the office of equity, hold  
25 forums and identify:

26 (a) Barriers to access and meaningful participation by people  
27 with disabilities in stakeholder engagement conducted by members of  
28 the legislature and legislative standing committees;

29 (b) Tools to support access and meaningful participation in  
30 stakeholder engagement for people with disabilities; and

31 (c) Accommodations and modifications to stakeholder engagement  
32 processes which promote an increase in access and opportunities for  
33 participation in policy-making processes for individuals with  
34 disabilities, and that are consistent with the Americans with  
35 disabilities act, chapter 49.60 RCW, and principles of universal  
36 design and access.

37 (2) By December 1, 2022, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,  
38 the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the secretary of

1 the senate shall submit a report to the legislature and legislative  
2 staff that details its findings under subsection (1) of this section.

3 (3) The chief clerk of the house of representatives and the  
4 secretary of the senate shall ensure that any relevant training  
5 material or guidance that is provided to members of the legislature  
6 or legislative staff:

7 (a) Describes the requirements in section 2 of this act;

8 (b) Strongly encourages the inclusion of people with disabilities  
9 as participants and subject matter experts in committee work sessions  
10 on the topic of disabilities;

11 (c) Includes best practices for providing barrier-free access to  
12 the legislature and the types of accommodations that are available to  
13 ensure that people with disabilities have full access to public  
14 meetings and other public legislative events; and

15 (d) In consultation with the governor's committee on disability  
16 issues and employment, the Washington state developmental  
17 disabilities council, and the office of equity, includes  
18 recommendations, if any, based on the forums held pursuant to  
19 subsection (1) of this section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the  
21 nothing about us without us act.

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