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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1692

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

**By** House State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Christian, Gregerson, Santos, Pollet, Macri, and Simmons)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing youth engagement in the legislative  
2 process by creating student advisory groups to examine issues  
3 important to youth; amending RCW 43.15.095; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 28A.345 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 44 RCW; creating  
5 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that people  
8 participating in their government is an essential part of developing  
9 public policy. Familiarizing students with their representative  
10 government's policy development process increases social  
11 responsibility and civic awareness that will benefit them now as  
12 students and later as adults, while improving our state. The  
13 legislature further finds that policymakers can benefit from the  
14 input of students presently in our kindergarten through grade 12  
15 school system and those attending a community or technical college,  
16 sharing insights and ideas on education and other issues affecting  
17 youth in our state. Therefore, the legislature intends to establish  
18 student councils, including 49 legislative district student councils  
19 each representing one legislative district to ensure proportional and  
20 geographical representation, to allow students to learn about and

1 participate in our representative democracy and share policy ideas  
2 with their state elected officials.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A legislative district student council  
4 is established in each legislative district. Legislative district  
5 student councils are informal nonpartisan advisory bodies that may  
6 examine issues affecting youth and education and make recommendations  
7 to the legislative youth advisory council on those issues.

8 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
9 select a statewide organization that provides leadership  
10 opportunities to students to complete the following tasks, consistent  
11 with the provisions of this act, by August 1, 2025:

12 (a) Develop processes and procedures that may be used to set up  
13 legislative district student councils;

14 (b) Contribute to the development of an application and selection  
15 process that may be used to select student members to serve on the  
16 council, including for the position of chair for each legislative  
17 district student council;

18 (c) Develop model practices regarding increasing student  
19 engagement; and

20 (d) Distribute information to students in qualifying schools  
21 about participating in a legislative district student council,  
22 including the application process and timeline.

23 (3) Each legislative district student council is composed of no  
24 more than seven student members as follows:

25 (a) One chair for each legislative district student council. The  
26 organization selected in subsection (2) of this section shall select  
27 the initial chairs for councils in legislative districts no later  
28 than October 1, 2025. Subsequent chairs shall be selected no later  
29 than June 1, 2027, and each June 1st every two years thereafter.

30 (b) One vice chair for each legislative district student council.  
31 The youth civic engagement council member from the respective  
32 legislative district shall serve as the vice chair for that  
33 district's legislative district student council.

34 (c) To the greatest extent possible, the Washington state school  
35 directors' association shall select up to two student board  
36 representatives from each legislative district who attend a  
37 qualifying school that serves students in any of grades nine through  
38 12 and are members of the Washington state school directors'

1 association's student representatives network to be members in that  
2 district's legislative district student council.

3 (d) (i) At least three additional members who are under the age of  
4 21 at the start of their term and attend either a qualifying school  
5 that serves students in any of grades nine through 12 or a community  
6 or technical college that is located within that student council's  
7 legislative district.

8 (ii) Factors to consider for selection of the members described  
9 in this subsection (3) (d) include:

10 (A) Balancing representation among the various grades, with at  
11 least one student being in grade 11 and one being in grade 12; and

12 (B) Selecting students who have demonstrated a commitment to  
13 civic education through current participation in another local youth  
14 council.

15 (iii) (A) For the selection of initial members described in this  
16 subsection (3) (d) for new legislative district student councils, a  
17 committee consisting of the chairs of each legislative district  
18 student council shall meet for the purpose of selecting members for  
19 each legislative district student council from the applications  
20 submitted. Initial members must be selected by November 15, 2025.

21 (B) Subsequent selection of members described in this subsection  
22 (3) (d) shall be the responsibility of each legislative district  
23 student council and must occur no later than October 1, 2027, and on  
24 October 1st every two years thereafter.

25 (4) To the greatest extent feasible, the members of each  
26 legislative district student council must attend either a qualifying  
27 school that serves students in any of grades nine through 12 or a  
28 community or technical college that is in their council's legislative  
29 district. If there are no applicants from a legislative district,  
30 eligible students who attend a qualifying school that serves students  
31 in any of grades nine through 12 or a community or technical college  
32 located in an adjacent legislative district may be selected for  
33 membership.

34 (5) Membership terms are as follows:

35 (a) Of the chairs initially selected, each chair shall serve two-  
36 year terms, except that students who are in grade 12 shall serve a  
37 one-year term but may serve the full two-year term if they attend a  
38 community or technical college within the student council's  
39 legislative district in the following year. The term of each

1 subsequent chair shall be two years, and qualifying chairs may be  
2 selected for subsequent two-year terms.

3 (b) Of the members initially selected to serve on a legislative  
4 district student council, two members shall serve one-year terms, and  
5 all other members shall serve two-year terms. Members initially  
6 selected to serve on a legislative district student council who are  
7 in grade 12 shall serve a one-year term but may serve the full two-  
8 year term if they attend a community or technical college within the  
9 student council's legislative district in the following year. The  
10 term of each subsequent eligible member shall be two years, and  
11 members may be selected for subsequent two-year terms.

12 (c) In the case of a vacancy, the selection of a student member  
13 to fill the remainder of an unexpired term must be conducted in the  
14 same manner as the original appointment.

15 (6) Each student council may not conduct more than four in-person  
16 meetings, with one of the in-person meetings occurring in person in  
17 Olympia on the day of youth civic education organized by the  
18 legislative youth advisory council, in collaboration with the student  
19 representative network, pursuant to RCW 43.15.095(6)(e). The student  
20 councils are encouraged to use technology, such as remote  
21 videoconferencing technology, to conduct additional virtual meetings.

22 (7) The legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any  
23 official or employee of such office or agency is immune from  
24 liability for any injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of  
25 the legislative district student council and that occurs while the  
26 member of the council is performing duties of the council. The  
27 immunity provided by this subsection does not apply to an injury  
28 intentionally caused by the act or omission of an employee or  
29 official of the office of the legislature or any agency of the  
30 legislature.

31 (8) When engaging in outreach and recruiting efforts to educate  
32 students and schools about opportunities to participate in a  
33 legislative district student council, and when creating an  
34 application and selection process as described in subsection (2) of  
35 this section, the lieutenant governor, the organization selected in  
36 subsection (2) of this section, and the Washington state school  
37 directors' association, as applicable, shall comply with the  
38 principles of the state pro-equity antiracism plan and playbook  
39 developed by the office of equity to bridge opportunity gaps, reduce  
40 disparities, and increase diversity of student membership.

1 (9) As used in this section:

2 (a) "Qualifying school" means a public school as defined in RCW  
3 28A.150.010, a private school approved under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or  
4 home-based instruction as defined in RCW 28A.225.010.

5 (b) "Student board representative" has the same meaning as in  
6 section 4 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The organization selected in section  
8 2(2) of this act shall, by December 31, 2025, and in compliance with  
9 RCW 43.01.036, submit a report to the legislature that details the  
10 following:

11 (a) The number of legislative district student councils that have  
12 been established pursuant to section 2 of this act;

13 (b) The legislative district of each legislative district student  
14 council;

15 (c) A list of schools represented on legislative district student  
16 councils;

17 (d) Grade levels represented on legislative district student  
18 councils; and

19 (e) The demographics of student members on each legislative  
20 district student council. The data must be disaggregated by  
21 categories listed in RCW 28A.642.010 and by legislative district  
22 student council.

23 (2) This section expires January 31, 2026.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.345  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) The Washington state school directors' association shall form  
27 a student representative network to examine issues important to youth  
28 and engage student school board representatives in the legislative  
29 process.

30 (2) Subject to the supervision of the Washington state school  
31 directors' association, the duties of the student representative  
32 network are as follows:

33 (a) Advise the legislature through feedback and testimony on  
34 proposed and pending legislation, including policy matters relating  
35 to youth;

36 (b) Advise the standing committees of the legislature and study  
37 commissions, committees, and task forces through feedback and  
38 testimony on issues relating to youth;

1 (c) Collaborate with the legislative youth advisory council  
2 established under RCW 43.15.095 to organize an in-person annual day  
3 of youth civic education in Olympia;

4 (d) Develop and assemble resources for new and existing student  
5 board representatives;

6 (e) Provide writing, photos, and other content for the Washington  
7 state school directors' association publications in consultation with  
8 Washington state school directors' association staff;

9 (f) Collaborate with the Washington state school directors'  
10 association standing committees, advisory committees, task forces,  
11 and caucuses as invited; and

12 (g) Provide additional student voices at Washington state school  
13 directors' association events in consultation with Washington state  
14 school directors' association staff.

15 (3) When acting on behalf of the student representative network,  
16 advocacy position and policy recommendations from network members  
17 shall be in accordance with the Washington state school directors'  
18 association's approved positions. When acting on behalf of individual  
19 school districts, legislative district student councils, or the  
20 legislative youth advisory council established under RCW 43.15.095,  
21 advocacy positions and policy recommendations made by network members  
22 are considered independent from the Washington state school  
23 directors' association.

24 (4) In supporting the student representative network, the  
25 Washington state school directors' association shall provide network  
26 members with the ability to learn about education policy issues and  
27 determine best practices for establishing and supporting student  
28 councils. Additionally, the Washington state school directors'  
29 association shall facilitate a connection between network members and  
30 the legislators in their legislative districts.

31 (5) All student board representatives are members of the student  
32 representative network. The Washington state school directors'  
33 association shall engage in outreach annually to each school district  
34 to provide information about the student representative network. To  
35 the greatest extent feasible, the Washington state school directors'  
36 association shall identify at least one student board representative  
37 from each legislative district to participate in the student  
38 representative network. In legislative districts where there are no  
39 established student board representatives, the Washington state  
40 school directors' association shall communicate with school districts

1 to create awareness of and share best practices about the role and to  
2 encourage participation.

3 (6) The Washington state school directors' association shall  
4 invite legislators to participate in the student representative  
5 network in an advisory capacity.

6 (7) The student representative network shall meet at least four  
7 times per year. The number of in-person meetings may not exceed four.

8 (8) The Washington state school directors' association, the  
9 legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any official or  
10 employee of such office or agency is immune from liability for any  
11 injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of the student  
12 representative network and that occurs while the member of the  
13 network is performing duties of the network or is otherwise engaged  
14 in activities or receiving services for which reimbursement is  
15 allowed under RCW 43.15.095(8). The immunity provided by this  
16 subsection does not apply to an injury intentionally caused by the  
17 act or omission of an employee or official of the Washington state  
18 school directors' association, the legislature, or any agency of the  
19 legislature.

20 (9) In compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the student representative  
21 network, in consultation and with the support of Washington state  
22 school directors' association staff, shall report on December 1st of  
23 each year to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the  
24 number of student board representatives in Washington and the  
25 activities of the network.

26 (10) As used in this section, "student board representative"  
27 means a student who is recognized by their local school board as a  
28 representative of the student body serving on that board.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.15.095 and 2022 c 96 s 6 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 (1) The legislative youth advisory council is established to  
32 examine issues of importance to youth, including but not limited to  
33 education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in  
34 state and municipal government, safe environments for youth,  
35 substance abuse, emotional and physical health, foster care, poverty,  
36 homelessness, and youth access to services on a statewide and  
37 municipal basis.

38 (2) The council consists of at least (~~twenty-two~~) 22 members as  
39 provided in this subsection who, at the time of appointment, are

1 ((aged)) age ((fourteen to eighteen)) 14 to 18. The council shall  
2 select a chair from among its members.

3 (3) Members shall serve two-year terms and, if eligible, may be  
4 reappointed for subsequent two-year terms.

5 (4) (a) Students may apply annually to be considered for  
6 participation in the program by completing an online application form  
7 and submitting the application to the legislative youth advisory  
8 council. The council may develop selection criteria and an  
9 application review process. The council shall recommend candidates  
10 whose names will be submitted to the office of the lieutenant  
11 governor for final selection. The office of the lieutenant governor  
12 shall notify all applicants of the final selections.

13 (b) The office of the lieutenant governor shall make the  
14 application available on the lieutenant governor's website.

15 (5) Information about participating in the legislative youth  
16 advisory council, including the application process and timeline,  
17 shall be distributed by the Washington state school directors'  
18 association.

19 (6) Subject to the supervision of the office of the lieutenant  
20 governor, the council shall have the following duties:

21 (a) Advising the legislature on proposed and pending legislation,  
22 including state budget expenditures and policy matters relating to  
23 youth;

24 (b) Advising the standing committees of the legislature and study  
25 commissions, committees, and task forces regarding issues relating to  
26 youth;

27 (c) Conducting periodic seminars for its members regarding  
28 leadership, government, and the legislature;

29 (d) Accepting and soliciting for grants and donations from public  
30 and private sources to support the activities of the council; ((and))

31 (e) In coordination with the student representative network,  
32 organizing an in-person annual day of youth civic education in  
33 Olympia;

34 (f) In collaboration with the youth civic engagement caucus,  
35 organizing a virtual town hall meeting within the three-month period  
36 preceding the commencement of the legislative session; and

37 (g) Reporting annually by December 1st to the legislature on its  
38 activities, including proposed legislation that implements  
39 recommendations of the council.



1       (~~(6)~~) (7) In carrying out its duties under this section, the  
2 council must meet at least three times per year. The council is  
3 encouraged to use technology, such as remote videoconferencing  
4 technology, to facilitate members' participation in meetings. The  
5 council is encouraged to invite local state legislators to  
6 participate in the meetings. The council is encouraged to poll other  
7 students in order to get a broad perspective on various policy  
8 issues. The council is encouraged to use technology to conduct  
9 polling.

10       (~~(7)~~) (8) Members may be reimbursed as provided in RCW  
11 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

12       (~~(8)~~) (9) The office of the lieutenant governor shall provide  
13 administration, supervision, and facilitation support to the council.  
14 In facilitating the program, the office of the lieutenant governor  
15 may collaborate with the Washington state leadership board  
16 established in RCW 43.388.010. The senate and house of  
17 representatives may provide policy and fiscal briefings and  
18 assistance with drafting proposed legislation. The senate and the  
19 house of representatives shall each develop internal policies  
20 relating to staff assistance provided to the council. Such policies  
21 may include applicable internal personnel and practices guidelines,  
22 resource use and expense reimbursement guidelines, and applicable  
23 ethics mandates. Provision of funds, resources, and staff, as well as  
24 the assignment and direction of staff, remains at all times within  
25 the sole discretion of the chamber making the provision.

26       (~~(9)~~) (10) The office of the lieutenant governor, the  
27 legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any official or  
28 employee of such office or agency (~~are~~) is immune from liability  
29 for any injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of the  
30 legislative youth advisory council and that occurs while the member  
31 of the council is performing duties of the council or is otherwise  
32 engaged in activities or receiving services for which reimbursement  
33 is allowed under subsection (~~(7)~~) (8) of this section. The immunity  
34 provided by this subsection does not apply to an injury intentionally  
35 caused by the act or omission of an employee or official of the  
36 office of the lieutenant governor, the legislature, or any agency of  
37 the legislature.

38       NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 6.**   (1) A youth civic engagement caucus is  
39 established to examine issues of importance to youth, including but

1 not limited to education, employment, strategies to increase youth  
2 participation in state and municipal government, safe environments  
3 for youth, substance abuse, emotional and physical health, foster  
4 care, poverty, homelessness, and youth access to services on a  
5 statewide and municipal basis.

6 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
7 select a statewide organization that provides leadership  
8 opportunities to students to create model processes and procedures  
9 that may be used to establish and maintain the youth civic engagement  
10 caucus. The model processes and procedures must be completed by  
11 September 1, 2025.

12 (3) Membership terms are as follows:

13 (a) The caucus consists of up to 49 members, with one member from  
14 each legislative district, who are sixth, seventh, or eighth grade  
15 students who attend a qualifying school, as defined in section 2 of  
16 this act, in the legislative district.

17 (b) The initial members on the caucus shall be equally balanced  
18 between sixth and seventh grade students to the greatest extent  
19 feasible. Sixth graders initially selected to the caucus shall serve  
20 three-year terms. Seventh graders initially selected to the caucus  
21 shall serve two-year terms, commencing October 1, 2025. All students  
22 subsequently selected to the caucus shall serve two-year terms,  
23 commencing each June 1st every two years thereafter.

24 (4) Members of the caucus shall serve as the vice chair for the  
25 legislative district student council of the member's respective  
26 legislative district.

27 (5) The caucus shall advise the legislature on proposed and  
28 pending legislation, including policy matters relating to youth.

29 (6) In carrying out its duties under this section, the caucus  
30 must meet at least four times per year, including:

31 (a) Collaborating with the legislative youth advisory council to  
32 play an active role in organizing action day, the annual day of civic  
33 youth education in Olympia under RCW 43.15.095(6) (e); and

34 (b) Collaborating with the legislative youth advisory council to  
35 organize a virtual town hall meeting within the three-month period  
36 preceding the commencement of the legislative session.

37 (7) The caucus is encouraged to use technology, such as remote  
38 videoconferencing technology, to facilitate members' participation in  
39 meetings. The caucus is encouraged to invite local state legislators  
40 to participate in the meetings. The caucus is encouraged to poll

1 other students in order to get a broad perspective on various policy  
2 issues. The caucus is encouraged to use technology to conduct  
3 polling.

4 (8) When engaging in outreach and recruiting efforts to educate  
5 students and schools about opportunities to participate in the youth  
6 civic engagement caucus, the lieutenant governor and the organization  
7 selected in subsection (2) of this section, as applicable, shall  
8 comply with the principles of the state pro-equity antiracism plan  
9 and playbook developed by the office of equity to bridge opportunity  
10 gaps, reduce disparities, and increase diversity of student  
11 membership.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 and 6 of this act constitute a  
13 new chapter in Title 44 RCW.

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