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**SENATE BILL 6159**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Nobles, Pedersen, Kuderer, and C. Wilson; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/11/24. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding the superintendent's designee to task  
2 forces and boards; and amending RCW 28A.305.011, 43.30.205, and  
3 43.59.030.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.305.011 and 2022 c 44 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The membership of the state board of education shall be  
8 composed of sixteen members who are residents of the state of  
9 Washington:

10 (a) Seven shall be members representing the educational system,  
11 as follows:

12 (i) Five members elected by school district directors. Three of  
13 the members elected by school district directors shall be residents  
14 of western Washington and two members shall be residents of eastern  
15 Washington;

16 (ii) One member elected at large by the members of the boards of  
17 directors of all private schools in the state meeting the  
18 requirements of RCW 28A.195.010; and

19 (iii) The superintendent of public instruction or their designee;

20 (b) Seven members appointed by the governor; and

1 (c) Two students selected in a manner determined by the state  
2 board of education.

3 (2) Initial appointments shall be for terms from one to four  
4 years in length, with the terms expiring on the second Monday of  
5 January of the applicable year. As the terms of the first appointees  
6 expire or vacancies on the board occur, the governor shall appoint or  
7 reappoint members of the board to complete the initial terms or to  
8 four-year terms, as appropriate.

9 (a) Appointees of the governor must be individuals who have  
10 demonstrated interest in public schools and are supportive of  
11 educational improvement, have a positive record of service, and who  
12 will devote sufficient time to the responsibilities of the board.

13 (b) In appointing board members, the governor shall consider the  
14 diversity of the population of the state.

15 (c) All appointments to the board made by the governor are  
16 subject to confirmation by the senate.

17 (d) No person may serve as a member of the board, except the  
18 superintendent of public instruction or their designee, for more than  
19 two consecutive full four-year terms.

20 (3) The governor may remove an appointed member of the board for  
21 neglect of duty, misconduct, malfeasance, or misfeasance in office,  
22 or for incompetent or unprofessional conduct as defined in chapter  
23 18.130 RCW. In such a case, the governor shall file with the  
24 secretary of state a statement of the causes for and the order of  
25 removal from office, and the secretary of state shall send a  
26 certified copy of the statement of causes and order of removal to the  
27 last known post office address of the member.

28 (4)(a) The chair of the board shall be elected by a majority vote  
29 of the members of the board. The chair of the board shall serve a  
30 term of two years, and may be reelected to an additional term. A  
31 member of the board may not serve as chair for more than two  
32 consecutive terms.

33 (b) Except as provided in (d) of this subsection, nine voting  
34 members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of  
35 business.

36 (c) All members are voting members.

37 (d) A student member selected under subsection (1)(c) of this  
38 section shall excuse themselves from voting on matters directly  
39 relating to graduation requirement changes that apply to the  
40 student's school and graduating class. In the event of a student

1 member excusing themselves under this subsection, eight voting  
2 members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of  
3 business.

4 (5) Members of the board appointed by the governor who are not  
5 public employees shall be compensated in accordance with RCW  
6 43.03.250 and shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in  
7 carrying out the duties of the board in accordance with RCW 43.03.050  
8 and 43.03.060.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.30.205 and 2010 c 189 s 1 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The board shall consist of six members:

12 (a) The governor or the governor's designee;

13 (b) The superintendent of public instruction or their designee;

14 (c) The commissioner;

15 (d) The director of the University of Washington school of forest  
16 resources;

17 (e) The dean of the Washington State University college of  
18 agricultural, human, and natural resource sciences; and

19 (f) A representative of those counties that contain state  
20 forestlands acquired or transferred under RCW 79.22.010, 79.22.040,  
21 and 79.22.020.

22 (2) (a) The county representative on the board shall be selected  
23 by the legislative authorities of those counties that contain state  
24 forestlands acquired or transferred under RCW 79.22.010, 79.22.040,  
25 and 79.22.020. In the selection of the county representative, each  
26 participating county shall have one vote. The Washington state  
27 association of counties shall convene a meeting for the purpose of  
28 making the selection and shall notify the board of the selection.

29 (b) The county representative must be a duly elected member of a  
30 county legislative authority who shall serve a term of four years  
31 unless the representative should leave office for any reason. The  
32 initial term shall begin on July 1, 1986.

33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.59.030 and 2018 c 201 s 8010 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 The governor shall be assisted in his or her duties and  
36 responsibilities by the Washington state traffic safety commission.  
37 The Washington traffic safety commission shall be composed of the  
38 governor as chair, the superintendent of public instruction or their

1 designee, the director of licensing, the secretary of transportation,  
2 the chief of the state patrol, the secretary of health, the director  
3 of the health care authority, a representative of the association of  
4 Washington cities to be appointed by the governor, a member of the  
5 association of counties to be appointed by the governor, and a  
6 representative of the judiciary to be appointed by the governor.  
7 Appointments to any vacancies among appointee members shall be as in  
8 the case of original appointment.

9       The governor may designate an employee of the governor's office  
10 familiar with the traffic safety commission to act on behalf of the  
11 governor during the absence of the governor at one or more of the  
12 meetings of the commission. The vote of the designee shall have the  
13 same effect as if cast by the governor if the designation is in  
14 writing and is presented to the person presiding at the meetings  
15 included within the designation.

16       The governor may designate a member, other than the governor's  
17 designee, to preside during the governor's absence.

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