
HOUSE BILL 1437

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Walen, Ryu, Donaghy, Reed, Barkis, Paul, Nance, Bernbaum, and Cortes

Read first time 01/21/25. Referred to Committee on Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans.

1 AN ACT Relating to sustainable state tourism promotion; amending
2 RCW 43.384.030; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the tourism
6 industry is the fourth largest economic sector in the state,
7 generating approximately \$23.9 billion in annual revenue and
8 employing more than 230,000 direct and induced jobs. Industry data
9 estimates that every dollar a tourist spends generates \$1.36 in
10 additional economic impact. In 2018, the legislature created a state-
11 funded tourism marketing program. During the 2023-2025 fiscal
12 biennium, the Washington tourism marketing authority was funded with
13 \$4,500,000 per fiscal year. This is significantly less than
14 competitive states. The Washington tourism marketing authority
15 contracts with state of Washington tourism to implement the state
16 tourism program, the results of which have been documented to draw
17 \$29 in visitor expenditures for every \$1 invested and \$3 in state and
18 local tax revenue for every \$1 invested.

19 Therefore, the legislature intends to solicit recommendations to
20 evaluate an industry self-supported assessment to ensure a dedicated

1 and sustainable funding mechanism for statewide tourism promotion and
2 management.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.384.030 and 2018 c 275 s 4 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The authority must be governed by a board of directors. The
6 board of directors must consist of:

7 (a) Two members and two alternates from the house of
8 representatives, with one member and one alternate appointed from
9 each of the two major caucuses of the house of representatives by the
10 speaker of the house of representatives;

11 (b) Two members and two alternates from the senate, with one
12 member and one alternate appointed from each of the two major
13 caucuses of the senate by the president of the senate; and

14 (c) Nine representatives with expertise in the tourism industry
15 and related businesses including, but not limited to, hotel,
16 restaurant, outdoor recreation, attractions, retail, and rental car
17 businesses appointed by the governor.

18 ~~((2) The initial membership of the authority must be appointed
19 as follows:~~

20 ~~(a) By May 1, 2018, the speaker of the house of representatives
21 and the president of the senate must each submit to the governor a
22 list of ten nominees who are not legislators or employees of the
23 state or its political subdivisions, with no caucus submitting the
24 same nominee;~~

25 ~~(b) The nominations from the speaker of the house of
26 representatives must include at least one representative from the
27 restaurant industry; one representative from the rental car industry;
28 and one representative from the retail industry;~~

29 ~~(c) The nominations from the president of the senate must include
30 at least one representative from the hotel industry; one
31 representative from the attractions industry; and one representative
32 from the outdoor recreation industry; and~~

33 ~~(d) The remaining member appointed by the governor must have a
34 demonstrated expertise in the tourism industry.~~

35 ~~(3) By July 1, 2018, the governor must appoint four members from
36 each list submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives
37 and the president of the senate under subsection (2) (a) through (c)
38 of this section and one member under subsection (2) (d) of this
39 section.)~~ Appointments by the governor must reflect diversity in

1 geography, size of business, gender, and ethnicity. No county may
2 have more than two appointments and no city may have more than one
3 appointment.

4 ~~((4))~~ (2) There must be a nonvoting advisory committee to the
5 board. The advisory committee must consist of:

6 (a) One ex officio representative from the department, state
7 parks and recreation commission, department of transportation, and
8 other state agencies as the authority deems appropriate; and

9 (b) One member from a federally recognized Indian tribe appointed
10 by the director of the department.

11 ~~((5) The initial appointments under subsections (1) and (2) of
12 this section must be appointed by the governor to terms as follows:
13 Four members for two-year terms; four members for three-year terms;
14 and five members for four-year terms, which must include the chair.
15 After the initial appointments, all))~~ (3) All appointments must be
16 for four years.

17 ~~((6))~~ (4) The board must select from its membership the chair
18 of the board and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The
19 chair of the board must be a member from the tourism industry or
20 related businesses.

21 ~~((7))~~ (5) A majority of the board constitutes a quorum.

22 ~~((8))~~ (6) The board must create its own bylaws in accordance
23 with the laws of the state of Washington.

24 ~~((9))~~ (7) Any member of the board may be removed for
25 misfeasance, malfeasance, or willful neglect of duty after notice and
26 a public hearing, unless the notice and hearing are expressly waived
27 in writing by the affected member.

28 ~~((10))~~ (8) If a vacancy occurs on the board, a replacement must
29 be appointed for the unexpired term.

30 ~~((11))~~ (9) The members of the board serve without compensation
31 but are entitled to reimbursement, solely from the funds of the
32 authority, for expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

33 ~~((12))~~ (10) The board must meet at least quarterly.

34 ~~((13))~~ (11) No board member of the authority may serve on the
35 board of an organization that could be considered for a contract
36 authorized under RCW 43.384.050.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The board of directors of the tourism
38 marketing authority must appoint a tourism self-supported assessment
39 advisory group. The advisory group must evaluate the viability of an

1 industry self-supported assessment to fund statewide tourism
2 promotion and recommend procedures to establish the self-supported
3 assessment.

4 (2) The tourism self-supported assessment advisory group must
5 consist of at least eight members that represent sectors of the
6 tourism industry that may be considered for the self-supported
7 assessment, including:

8 (a) Two members representing the lodging sector;

9 (b) One member representing the beverage sector;

10 (c) One member representing the arts and culture sector;

11 (d) One member representing the tour operators sector;

12 (e) One member representing the attractions sector;

13 (f) One member representing the transportation sector; and

14 (g) One member representing a statewide Washington tourism
15 promotion nonprofit.

16 (3) The tourism self-supported assessment advisory group must
17 make recommendations for the following:

18 (a) The classification of businesses proposed to be included in
19 the self-supported assessment;

20 (b) The self-supported assessment methodology including the
21 petition process for businesses to approve the self-supported
22 assessment;

23 (c) The rate of self-supported assessment for each business
24 classification;

25 (d) The characteristics of a business within a classification
26 that will benefit from the self-supported assessment;

27 (e) The time period or duration of the self-supported assessment;
28 and

29 (f) The establishment of an oversight board for ratepayers
30 representing businesses by self-supported assessments.

31 (4) The tourism self-supported assessment advisory group must
32 submit its recommendations in writing to the legislature by November
33 1, 2025.

34 (5) This section expires June 1, 2026.

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