
SENATE BILL 5446

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Lovick, Warnick, Orwall, Riccelli, Salomon, and Shewmake

Read first time 01/23/25. Referred to Committee on State Government,
Tribal Affairs & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the Washington state commission
2 on boys and men; and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The Washington state commission on
5 boys and men is established in the office of the governor. In
6 carrying out its duties under this chapter, the commission's areas of
7 focus are limited to only the following: Mental and physical health;
8 education and skills; means of livelihood, careers, and financial
9 well-being; fatherhood, family, and relationships; evaluating the
10 causes of the preschool to prison pipeline and developing prevention
11 strategies; and the experiences of boys and men in other court
12 systems.

13 (2) The commission shall be administered by an executive director
14 who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the
15 governor. The governor shall set the salary of the executive
16 director. The executive director shall employ the staff of the
17 commission.

18 (3) Pertaining to the focus areas described in subsection (1) of
19 this section, the executive director of the commission shall:

20 (a) Monitor state legislation, and advocate for legislation which
21 may positively impact boys and men;

1 (b) Work with state agencies to assess programs and policies that
2 affect boys and men;

3 (c) Coordinate and collaborate with the women's commission, LGBTQ
4 commission, human rights commission, commission on African American
5 affairs, commission on Hispanic affairs, commission on Asian Pacific
6 American affairs, the governor's office of Indian affairs, and other
7 entities to address issues of mutual concern;

8 (d) Work as a liaison between the public and private sector to
9 improve the well-being of boys and men; and

10 (e) Maintain a list of eligible nominees for membership on the
11 commission who have demonstrated expertise and interest in the well-
12 being of boys and men, and nominate such individuals for
13 consideration.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state commission on
15 boys and men shall consist of 11 nonlegislative voting members. The
16 speaker of the house of representatives and the minority leader of
17 the house of representatives shall each appoint two nonlegislative
18 members to the commission. The president of the senate and the
19 minority leader of the senate shall each appoint two nonlegislative
20 members to the commission. The governor shall appoint three
21 nonlegislative members to the commission, with the advice and consent
22 of the senate. In making such appointments, all appointing
23 authorities shall give due consideration to nominations submitted by
24 the executive director.

25 (2) The appointing authorities may only appoint members who have
26 demonstrated an understanding of at least one of the focus areas
27 described under section 1(1) of this act as it applies to issues
28 impacting the well-being of boys and men.

29 (3) The appointing authorities shall ensure representation of
30 diverse perspectives among the commissioners, based upon maintaining
31 a balanced and diverse distribution of ethnic, geographic, gender,
32 sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and occupational
33 representation, where practicable.

34 (4) At the commission's first meeting, each appointed voting
35 member shall draw lots to determine the length of time they will
36 serve on the commission. Of the persons initially appointed to the
37 commission, four members shall serve one year, four shall serve two
38 years, and three shall serve three years. Upon expiration of such
39 terms, subsequent appointments shall be for three years. Any

1 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
2 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as
3 the original appointments. In no case may any voting member serve
4 more than three years without formal reappointment by the appropriate
5 appointing authority.

6 (5) Two members of the senate, one from each of the two major
7 political parties, appointed by the president of the senate, and two
8 members of the house of representatives, one from each of the two
9 major political parties, appointed by the speaker of the house of
10 representatives, shall serve as nonvoting members in an advisory
11 capacity. The appointing authorities shall appoint members who have
12 demonstrated an interest in furthering the purpose of the commission.
13 All legislative advisory members shall serve a two-year term, and the
14 position of any legislative advisory member is vacated whenever such
15 member ceases to be a member of the house from which the member was
16 appointed.

17 (6) (a) Nonlegislative members of the commission shall be
18 reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties
19 in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

20 (b) Legislative members of the commission shall be reimbursed for
21 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance
22 with RCW 44.04.120.

23 (7) A simple majority of the commission's voting membership
24 constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state commission on
26 boys and men shall have the following duties:

27 (a) Provide a clearinghouse for information regarding state
28 legislation as it relates to the purpose of this chapter;

29 (b) Identify and define specific needs of boys and men, ensuring
30 consideration for data disaggregated by multiple social factors,
31 circumstances, or situations that affect a person's lifestyle and
32 well-being, and provide recommendations for addressing those needs in
33 reports to the legislature and governor under (c) of this subsection
34 and on an ongoing basis;

35 (c) Submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
36 legislature and the governor every two years, in compliance with RCW
37 43.01.036, detailing the commission's activities;

38 (d) Consult with state agencies regarding the effects of agency
39 policies, procedures, practices, laws, and administrative rules on

1 the unique problems and needs of boys and men. The commission shall
2 also advise such state agencies on the development and implementation
3 of comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs
4 focusing on those problems and needs;

5 (e) Gather data and provide resource and referral information to
6 agencies and the public in order to implement the purpose of this
7 chapter;

8 (f) Hold public hearings to gather input on issues related to the
9 unique problems and needs of boys and men; and

10 (g) Advocate for the removal of legal and social barriers for
11 boys and men.

12 (2) To inform public policy, the commission may consult with
13 nonprofit organizations and faith-based organizations that specialize
14 in or provide services relating to any of the focus areas described
15 in section 1(1) of this act.

16 (3) State agencies shall provide appropriate and reasonable
17 assistance to the commission upon request, including gathering and
18 providing data and information, to carry out the purpose of this
19 chapter.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The Washington state commission on
21 boys and men may solicit and receive gifts, grants, and endowments
22 from public or private sources that are made for the use or benefit
23 of the commission and expend the same or any income therefrom
24 according to their terms and the purpose of this chapter. The
25 commission's executive director shall make a report of such funds
26 received from private sources to the office of financial management
27 on a semiannual basis. Funds received from private sources may not be
28 applied to reduce or substitute for the commission's budget as
29 appropriated by the legislature but shall be applied and expended
30 toward projects and functions authorized by this chapter that were
31 not funded by the legislature.

32 (2) In carrying out its duties, the commission may enter into
33 agreements with public and private institutions, local governments,
34 private industry, community organizations, and other segments of the
35 general public as may be appropriate for the purpose of this chapter.

36 (3) The commission may adopt rules and regulations pursuant to
37 chapter 34.05 RCW as shall be necessary to implement the purpose of
38 this chapter.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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