

2SHB 1692 - H AMD 877

By Representative Bergquist

ADOPTED 02/08/2024

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

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

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A legislative district student council
20 is established in each legislative district. Legislative district
21 student councils are informal nonpartisan advisory bodies that may
22 examine issues affecting youth and education and make recommendations
23 to the legislative youth advisory council on those issues.

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

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

30 (b) Contribute to the development of an application and selection
31 process that may be used to select student members to serve on the

1 council, including for the position of chair for each legislative
2 district student council;

3 (c) Develop model practices regarding increasing student
4 engagement; and

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

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

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

15 (b) One vice chair for each legislative district student council.
16 The youth civic engagement council member from the respective
17 legislative district shall serve as the vice chair for that
18 district's legislative district student council.

19 (c) To the greatest extent possible, the Washington state school
20 directors' association shall select up to two student board
21 representatives from each legislative district who attend a
22 qualifying school that serves students in any of grades nine through
23 12 and are members of the Washington state school directors'
24 association's student representatives network to be members in that
25 district's legislative district student council.

26 (d) (i) At least three additional members who are under the age of
27 21 at the start of their term and attend either a qualifying school
28 that serves students in any of grades nine through 12 or a community
29 or technical college that is located within that student council's
30 legislative district.

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

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

35 (B) Selecting students who have demonstrated a commitment to
36 civic education through current participation in another local youth
37 council.

38 (iii) (A) For the selection of initial members described in this
39 subsection (3)(d) for new legislative district student councils, a
40 committee consisting of the chairs of each legislative district

1 student council shall meet for the purpose of selecting members for
2 each legislative district student council from the applications
3 submitted. Initial members must be selected by November 15, 2025.

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

8 (4) To the greatest extent feasible, the members of each
9 legislative district student council must attend either a qualifying
10 school that serves students in any of grades nine through 12 or a
11 community or technical college that is in their council's legislative
12 district. If there are no applicants from a legislative district,
13 eligible students who attend a qualifying school that serves students
14 in any of grades nine through 12 or a community or technical college
15 located in an adjacent legislative district may be selected for
16 membership.

17 (5) Membership terms are as follows:

18 (a) Of the chairs initially selected, each chair shall serve two-
19 year terms, except that students who are in grade 12 shall serve a
20 one-year term but may serve the full two-year term if they attend a
21 community or technical college within the student council's
22 legislative district in the following year. The term of each
23 subsequent chair shall be two years, and qualifying chairs may be
24 selected for subsequent two-year terms.

25 (b) Of the members initially selected to serve on a legislative
26 district student council, two members shall serve one-year terms, and
27 all other members shall serve two-year terms. Members initially
28 selected to serve on a legislative district student council who are
29 in grade 12 shall serve a one-year term but may serve the full two-
30 year term if they attend a community or technical college within the
31 student council's legislative district in the following year. The
32 term of each subsequent eligible member shall be two years, and
33 members may be selected for subsequent two-year terms.

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

37 (6) Each student council may not conduct more than four in-person
38 meetings, with one of the in-person meetings occurring in person in
39 Olympia on the day of youth civic education organized by the
40 legislative youth advisory council, in collaboration with the student

1 representative network, pursuant to RCW 43.15.095(6)(e). The student
2 councils are encouraged to use technology, such as remote
3 videoconferencing technology, to conduct additional virtual meetings.

4 (7) The legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any
5 official or employee of such office or agency is immune from
6 liability for any injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of
7 the legislative district student council and that occurs while the
8 member of the council is performing duties of the council. The
9 immunity provided by this subsection does not apply to an injury
10 intentionally caused by the act or omission of an employee or
11 official of the office of the legislature or any agency of the
12 legislature.

13 (8) When engaging in outreach and recruiting efforts to educate
14 students and schools about opportunities to participate in a
15 legislative district student council, and when creating an
16 application and selection process as described in subsection (2) of
17 this section, the lieutenant governor, the organization selected in
18 subsection (2) of this section, and the Washington state school
19 directors' association, as applicable, shall comply with the
20 principles of the state pro-equity antiracism plan and playbook
21 developed by the office of equity to bridge opportunity gaps, reduce
22 disparities, and increase diversity of student membership.

23 (9) As used in this section:

24 (a) "Qualifying school" means a public school as defined in RCW
25 28A.150.010, a private school approved under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or
26 home-based instruction as defined in RCW 28A.225.010.

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

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The organization selected in section
30 2(2) of this act shall, by December 31, 2025, and in compliance with
31 RCW 43.01.036, submit a report to the legislature that details the
32 following:

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

35 (b) The legislative district of each legislative district student
36 council;

37 (c) A list of schools represented on legislative district student
38 councils;

1 (d) Grade levels represented on legislative district student
2 councils; and

3 (e) The demographics of student members on each legislative
4 district student council. The data must be disaggregated by
5 categories listed in RCW 28A.642.010 and by legislative district
6 student council.

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

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

10 (1) The Washington state school directors' association shall form
11 a student representative network to examine issues important to youth
12 and engage student school board representatives in the legislative
13 process.

14 (2) Subject to the supervision of the Washington state school
15 directors' association, the duties of the student representative
16 network are as follows:

17 (a) Advise the legislature through feedback and testimony on
18 proposed and pending legislation, including policy matters relating
19 to youth;

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

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

26 (d) Develop and assemble resources for new and existing student
27 board representatives;

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

31 (f) Collaborate with the Washington state school directors'
32 association standing committees, advisory committees, task forces,
33 and caucuses as invited; and

34 (g) Provide additional student voices at Washington state school
35 directors' association events in consultation with Washington state
36 school directors' association staff.

37 (3) When acting on behalf of the student representative network,
38 advocacy position and policy recommendations from network members
39 shall be in accordance with the Washington state school directors'

1 association's approved positions. When acting on behalf of individual
2 school districts, legislative district student councils, or the
3 legislative youth advisory council established under RCW 43.15.095,
4 advocacy positions and policy recommendations made by network members
5 are considered independent from the Washington state school
6 directors' association.

7 (4) In supporting the student representative network, the
8 Washington state school directors' association shall provide network
9 members with the ability to learn about education policy issues and
10 determine best practices for establishing and supporting student
11 councils. Additionally, the Washington state school directors'
12 association shall facilitate a connection between network members and
13 the legislators in their legislative districts.

14 (5) All student board representatives are members of the student
15 representative network. The Washington state school directors'
16 association shall engage in outreach annually to each school district
17 to provide information about the student representative network. To
18 the greatest extent feasible, the Washington state school directors'
19 association shall identify at least one student board representative
20 from each legislative district to participate in the student
21 representative network. In legislative districts where there are no
22 established student board representatives, the Washington state
23 school directors' association shall communicate with school districts
24 to create awareness of and share best practices about the role and to
25 encourage participation.

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

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

31 (8) The Washington state school directors' association, the
32 legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any official or
33 employee of such office or agency is immune from liability for any
34 injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of the student
35 representative network and that occurs while the member of the
36 network is performing duties of the network or is otherwise engaged
37 in activities or receiving services for which reimbursement is
38 allowed under RCW 43.15.095(8). The immunity provided by this
39 subsection does not apply to an injury intentionally caused by the
40 act or omission of an employee or official of the Washington state

1 school directors' association, the legislature, or any agency of the
2 legislature.

3 (9) In compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the student representative
4 network, in consultation and with the support of Washington state
5 school directors' association staff, shall report on December 1st of
6 each year to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the
7 number of student board representatives in Washington and the
8 activities of the network.

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

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

14 (1) The legislative youth advisory council is established to
15 examine issues of importance to youth, including but not limited to
16 education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in
17 state and municipal government, safe environments for youth,
18 substance abuse, emotional and physical health, foster care, poverty,
19 homelessness, and youth access to services on a statewide and
20 municipal basis.

21 (2) The council consists of at least (~~twenty-two~~) 22 members as
22 provided in this subsection who, at the time of appointment, are
23 (~~aged~~) age (~~fourteen to eighteen~~) 14 to 18. The council shall
24 select a chair from among its members.

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

27 (4)(a) Students may apply annually to be considered for
28 participation in the program by completing an online application form
29 and submitting the application to the legislative youth advisory
30 council. The council may develop selection criteria and an
31 application review process. The council shall recommend candidates
32 whose names will be submitted to the office of the lieutenant
33 governor for final selection. The office of the lieutenant governor
34 shall notify all applicants of the final selections.

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

37 (5) Information about participating in the legislative youth
38 advisory council, including the application process and timeline,

1 shall be distributed by the Washington state school directors'
2 association.

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

5 (a) Advising the legislature on proposed and pending legislation,
6 including state budget expenditures and policy matters relating to
7 youth;

8 (b) Advising the standing committees of the legislature and study
9 commissions, committees, and task forces regarding issues relating to
10 youth;

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

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

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

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

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

24 ~~((+6))~~ (7) In carrying out its duties under this section, the
25 council must meet at least three times per year. The council is
26 encouraged to use technology, such as remote videoconferencing
27 technology, to facilitate members' participation in meetings. The
28 council is encouraged to invite local state legislators to
29 participate in the meetings. The council is encouraged to poll other
30 students in order to get a broad perspective on various policy
31 issues. The council is encouraged to use technology to conduct
32 polling.

33 ~~((+7))~~ (8) Members may be reimbursed as provided in RCW
34 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

35 ~~((+8))~~ (9) The office of the lieutenant governor shall provide
36 administration, supervision, and facilitation support to the council.
37 In facilitating the program, the office of the lieutenant governor
38 may collaborate with the Washington state leadership board
39 established in RCW 43.388.010. The senate and house of
40 representatives may provide policy and fiscal briefings and

1 assistance with drafting proposed legislation. The senate and the
2 house of representatives shall each develop internal policies
3 relating to staff assistance provided to the council. Such policies
4 may include applicable internal personnel and practices guidelines,
5 resource use and expense reimbursement guidelines, and applicable
6 ethics mandates. Provision of funds, resources, and staff, as well as
7 the assignment and direction of staff, remains at all times within
8 the sole discretion of the chamber making the provision.

9 ~~((9))~~ (10) The office of the lieutenant governor, the
10 legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any official or
11 employee of such office or agency ~~((are))~~ is immune from liability
12 for any injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of the
13 legislative youth advisory council and that occurs while the member
14 of the council is performing duties of the council or is otherwise
15 engaged in activities or receiving services for which reimbursement
16 is allowed under subsection ~~((7))~~ (8) of this section. The immunity
17 provided by this subsection does not apply to an injury intentionally
18 caused by the act or omission of an employee or official of the
19 office of the lieutenant governor, the legislature, or any agency of
20 the legislature.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) A youth civic engagement caucus is
22 established to examine issues of importance to youth, including but
23 not limited to education, employment, strategies to increase youth
24 participation in state and municipal government, safe environments
25 for youth, substance abuse, emotional and physical health, foster
26 care, poverty, homelessness, and youth access to services on a
27 statewide and municipal basis.

28 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
29 select a statewide organization that provides leadership
30 opportunities to students to create model processes and procedures
31 that may be used to establish and maintain the youth civic engagement
32 caucus. The model processes and procedures must be completed by
33 September 1, 2025.

34 (3) Membership terms are as follows:

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

1 (b) The initial members on the caucus shall be equally balanced
2 between sixth and seventh grade students to the greatest extent
3 feasible. Sixth graders initially selected to the caucus shall serve
4 three-year terms. Seventh graders initially selected to the caucus
5 shall serve two-year terms, commencing October 1, 2025. All students
6 subsequently selected to the caucus shall serve two-year terms,
7 commencing each June 1st every two years thereafter.

8 (4) Members of the caucus shall serve as the vice chair for the
9 legislative district student council of the member's respective
10 legislative district.

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

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

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

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

21 (7) The caucus is encouraged to use technology, such as remote
22 videoconferencing technology, to facilitate members' participation in
23 meetings. The caucus is encouraged to invite local state legislators
24 to participate in the meetings. The caucus is encouraged to poll
25 other students in order to get a broad perspective on various policy
26 issues. The caucus is encouraged to use technology to conduct
27 polling.

28 (8) When engaging in outreach and recruiting efforts to educate
29 students and schools about opportunities to participate in the youth
30 civic engagement caucus, the lieutenant governor and the organization
31 selected in subsection (2) of this section, as applicable, shall
32 comply with the principles of the state pro-equity antiracism plan
33 and playbook developed by the office of equity to bridge opportunity
34 gaps, reduce disparities, and increase diversity of student
35 membership.

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

38 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Transfers various tasks related to the Legislative District Student Councils and Youth Civic Engagement Caucus—including developing an application and selection process for members and selecting members—from the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) to a statewide organization that provides leadership opportunities to students, as selected by the Office of the Superintendent of the Public Instruction (OSPI). Requires this organization to comply with the state pro-equity antiracism plan and playbook adopted by the Office of Equity. Removes provisions requiring WSSDA to develop model practices regarding increasing student engagement and to promote participation in the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and the Councils. Removes provisions requiring legislators to participate in the creation or administration of the Councils. Transfers the responsibility to submit a report to the legislature regarding the Councils from WSSDA to the organization selected by OSPI. Modifies deadlines and membership requirements for selecting Council chairs and members, as well as the size of Councils. Expands possible membership in the Councils and Caucus to include students who attend private schools or who are home-schooled.

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