
HOUSE BILL 1802

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Pollet and Frame

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1 AN ACT Relating to increasing access and representation in
2 policy-making processes for individuals with disabilities; adding new
3 sections to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that people
6 with disabilities are often left out of the policy decisions that
7 affect them most. People with disabilities have lived experience
8 navigating societal barriers and are therefore best equipped to find
9 solutions. According to the centers for disease control and
10 prevention, one in five Washingtonians have a disability;
11 approximately 22 percent of the state population. The disability
12 community is the one minority group that individuals can join at any
13 point in their life and has been described by the United States
14 department of labor as the largest minority group in the country. As
15 such, the disability community is extremely diverse and made up of
16 people with many different identities and experiences. People with
17 disabilities face greater hardships finding and maintaining
18 employment that pays a living wage, attaining higher education, and
19 finding places to live. The poverty rate for people with disabilities
20 in Washington is 20 percent, which is nearly twice the rate for
21 people without disabilities. In addition, people with disabilities

1 are employed at less than half the rate of people without
2 disabilities despite the fact that with reasonable accommodations
3 people with disabilities thrive in the workplace. As a result, many
4 individuals rely on a fixed income and public benefits. Because
5 people with disabilities make less money, and their income is often
6 supplemented by the government, they may have trouble finding places
7 to live. This causes many people with disabilities to rely on
8 affordable housing solutions which are not always accessible. People
9 with disabilities, particularly people with intellectual and
10 developmental disabilities, fight negative stereotypes, stigma, and
11 ableism every day in order to live dignified and autonomous lives. It
12 is essential that people with disabilities have the opportunity to
13 participate in and guide decision-making processes on policies and
14 practices that impact their lives.

15 (2) The legislature finds people with disabilities are almost
16 entirely unrepresented in policy making yet are disproportionately
17 impacted by government decisions. Access is an equity issue and by
18 addressing barriers to participation for people with disabilities the
19 greater public will also benefit. A governing body that makes
20 decisions about disability cannot do so effectively without the
21 participation and contribution of those who have lived experience
22 with disabilities.

23 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to ensure meaningful
24 participation from people with disabilities on each statutorily
25 created or mandated task force, work group, advisory committee, or
26 other entity tasked with examining policies or issues affecting
27 people with disabilities. When people with disabilities have a seat
28 at the table, Washington thrives.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) The membership of any statutory entity, as defined in
32 subsection (4) of this section, must meet the following requirements:

33 (a) At least three of the statutory entity's members or 30
34 percent of the statutory entity's membership, whichever is higher,
35 must be people with disabilities who have direct lived experience
36 with the identified issue being addressed by the statutory entity;
37 and

38 (b) The membership of the entity must reflect the diversity of
39 people with lived experience with disabilities, including members

1 from different parts of the state with differing cultural and
2 economic circumstances as well as the combination of these identities
3 and experiences.

4 (2) The requirement in subsection (1)(a) of this section must
5 include participation by people with intellectual and developmental
6 disabilities when the issues being addressed directly and tangibly
7 relate to services or conditions relating to this population.

8 (3) The statute law committee shall include in any published bill
9 drafting guide reference to the requirements in subsection (1) of
10 this section.

11 (4) As used in this section, "statutory entity" means any
12 statutorily created or statutorily mandated task force, work group,
13 advisory committee, or other entity created in or mandated by
14 statute, the membership of which includes nonlegislative members and
15 that is tasked with examining policies and issues related directly
16 and tangibly to people with disabilities. "Statutory entity" does not
17 include legislative select committees or other statutorily created
18 legislative entities composed of only legislative members.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) The chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
22 secretary of the senate shall, in consultation with the governor's
23 committee on disability issues and employment, the Washington state
24 developmental disabilities council, and the office of equity, hold
25 forums and identify:

26 (a) Barriers to access and meaningful participation by people
27 with disabilities in stakeholder engagement conducted by members of
28 the legislature and legislative standing committees;

29 (b) Tools to support access and meaningful participation in
30 stakeholder engagement for people with disabilities; and

31 (c) Accommodations and modifications to stakeholder engagement
32 processes which promote an increase in access and opportunities for
33 participation in policy-making processes for individuals with
34 disabilities, and that are consistent with the Americans with
35 disabilities act, chapter 49.60 RCW, and principles of universal
36 design and access.

37 (2) By December 1, 2022, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
38 the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the secretary of

1 the senate shall submit a report to the legislature and legislative
2 staff that details its findings under subsection (1) of this section.

3 (3) The chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
4 secretary of the senate shall ensure that any relevant training
5 material or guidance that is provided to members of the legislature
6 or legislative staff:

7 (a) Describes the requirements in section 2 of this act;

8 (b) Strongly encourages the inclusion of people with disabilities
9 as participants and subject matter experts in committee work sessions
10 on the topic of disabilities;

11 (c) Includes best practices for providing barrier-free access to
12 the legislature and the types of accommodations that are available to
13 ensure that people with disabilities have full access to public
14 meetings and other public legislative events; and

15 (d) In consultation with the governor's committee on disability
16 issues and employment, the Washington state developmental
17 disabilities council, and the office of equity, includes
18 recommendations, if any, based on the forums held pursuant to
19 subsection (1) of this section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the
21 nothing about us without us act.

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