
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1692

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By House State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Christian, Gregerson, Santos, Pollet, Macri, and Simmons)

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing youth engagement in the legislative
2 process by creating student advisory groups to examine issues
3 important to youth; amending RCW 43.15.095; adding a new section to
4 chapter 28A.345 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 44 RCW; creating
5 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

1 participate in our representative democracy and share policy ideas
2 with their state elected officials.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A legislative district student council
4 is established in each legislative district. Legislative district
5 student councils are informal nonpartisan advisory bodies that may
6 examine issues affecting youth and education and make recommendations
7 to legislators on those issues. Each chair of a legislative district
8 student council, selected pursuant to this section, shall coordinate
9 with the legislators from the legislative district that the student
10 member represents to establish and maintain their district's student
11 council. Each legislative district student council is facilitated by
12 the legislative offices of legislators who choose to assist in
13 facilitating the program. Participation in this process is voluntary
14 for each legislator.

15 (2) Consistent with the provisions of this act, the Washington
16 state school directors' association, in consultation with the student
17 representative network created in section 4 of this act, shall:

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

20 (b) Contribute to the development of an application and selection
21 process that may be used to select student members to serve on the
22 council, including for the position of chair for each legislative
23 district student council;

24 (c) Contribute to the development of model practices enabling
25 public schools to conduct legislative district student council
26 meetings as extracurricular activities;

27 (d) Develop model practices regarding increasing student
28 engagement; and

29 (e) Distribute information about participating in a legislative
30 district student council, including the application process and
31 timeline.

32 (3) Consistent with the provisions of this chapter, the
33 legislative offices of legislators who choose to assist in
34 facilitating the district student council program shall develop a
35 model process, program, and duties for legislative district student
36 councils, which must include mechanisms for administration,
37 supervision, and support for the legislative district student
38 councils.

1 (4) Each legislative district student council is composed of no
2 more than 11 student members as follows:

3 (a) One chair for each legislative district student council. The
4 Washington state school directors' association shall select the
5 initial chairs for councils in legislative districts where student
6 representatives network members exist no later than October 1, 2025.
7 In other areas, the Washington state school directors' association
8 shall assist in the selection of the initial chairs through other
9 student associations and networks. Subsequent chairs shall be
10 selected no later than June 1, 2027, and each June 1st every two
11 years thereafter.

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

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

23 (d) (i) At least four additional members who are under the age of
24 21 at the start of their term and attend either a public school that
25 serves students in any of grades nine through 12 or a community or
26 technical college that is located within that student council's
27 legislative district.

28 (ii) Factors to consider for selection of the members described
29 in this subsection (4) (d) include:

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

32 (B) Selecting students who have demonstrated a commitment to
33 civic education through current participation in another local youth
34 council.

35 (iii) (A) For the selection of initial members described in this
36 subsection (4) (d) for new legislative district student councils, a
37 committee consisting of the chairs of each legislative district
38 student council shall meet for the purpose of selecting members for
39 each legislative district student council from the applications
40 submitted. Initial members must be selected by January 15, 2026.

1 (B) Subsequent selection of members described in this subsection
2 (4)(d) shall be the responsibility of each legislative district
3 student council and must occur no later than January 15, 2028, and on
4 January 15th every two years thereafter.

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

14 (6) Membership terms are as follows:

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

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

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

33 (7) Each student council may not conduct more than four in-person
34 meetings, with one of the in-person meetings occurring in person in
35 Olympia on the day of youth civic education organized by the
36 legislative youth advisory council, in collaboration with the student
37 representative network, pursuant to RCW 43.15.095(6)(e).

38 (8) The legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any
39 official or employee of such office or agency is immune from
40 liability for any injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of

1 the legislative district student council and that occurs while the
2 member of the council is performing duties of the council. The
3 immunity provided by this subsection does not apply to an injury
4 intentionally caused by the act or omission of an employee or
5 official of the office of the legislature or any agency of the
6 legislature.

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

16 (10) As used in this section:

17 (a) "Public school" has the meaning defined in RCW 28A.150.010.

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

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state school directors'
21 association shall, by December 31, 2025, and in compliance with RCW
22 43.01.036, submit a report to the legislature that details the
23 following:

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

26 (b) The legislative district of each legislative district student
27 council;

28 (c) A list of schools represented on legislative district student
29 councils;

30 (d) Grade levels represented on legislative district student
31 councils; and

32 (e) The demographics of student members on each legislative
33 district student council. The data must be disaggregated by
34 categories listed in RCW 28A.642.010 and by legislative district
35 student council.

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

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

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

5 (2) Subject to the supervision of the Washington state school
6 directors' association, the duties of the student representative
7 network are as follows:

8 (a) Advise the legislature through feedback and testimony on
9 proposed and pending legislation, including policy matters relating
10 to youth;

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

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

17 (d) Develop and assemble resources for new and existing student
18 board representatives;

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

22 (f) Collaborate with the Washington state school directors'
23 association standing committees, advisory committees, task forces,
24 and caucuses as invited; and

25 (g) Provide additional student voices at Washington state school
26 directors' association events in consultation with Washington state
27 school directors' association staff.

28 (3) When acting on behalf of the student representative network,
29 advocacy position and policy recommendations from network members
30 shall be in accordance with the Washington state school directors'
31 association's approved positions. When acting on behalf of individual
32 school districts, legislative district student councils, or the
33 legislative youth advisory council established under RCW 43.15.095,
34 advocacy positions and policy recommendations made by network members
35 are considered independent from the Washington state school
36 directors' association.

37 (4) In supporting the student representative network, the
38 Washington state school directors' association shall provide network
39 members with the ability to learn about education policy issues and
40 determine best practices for establishing and supporting student

1 councils. Additionally, the Washington state school directors'
2 association shall facilitate a connection between network members and
3 the legislators in their legislative districts.

4 (5) All student board representatives are members of the student
5 representative network. The Washington state school directors'
6 association shall engage in outreach annually to each school district
7 to provide information about the student representative network. To
8 the greatest extent feasible, the Washington state school directors'
9 association shall identify at least one student board representative
10 from each legislative district to participate in the student
11 representative network. In legislative districts where there are no
12 established student board representatives, the Washington state
13 school directors' association shall communicate with school districts
14 to create awareness of and share best practices about the role and to
15 encourage participation.

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

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

21 (8) The Washington state school directors' association, the
22 legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any official or
23 employee of such office or agency is immune from liability for any
24 injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of the student
25 representative network and that occurs while the member of the
26 network is performing duties of the network or is otherwise engaged
27 in activities or receiving services for which reimbursement is
28 allowed under RCW 43.15.095(8). The immunity provided by this
29 subsection does not apply to an injury intentionally caused by the
30 act or omission of an employee or official of the Washington state
31 school directors' association, the legislature, or any agency of the
32 legislature.

33 (9) In compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the student representative
34 network, in consultation and with the support of Washington state
35 school directors' association staff, shall report on December 1st of
36 each year to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the
37 number of student board representatives in Washington and the
38 activities of the network.

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

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

6 (1) The legislative youth advisory council is established to
7 examine issues of importance to youth, including but not limited to
8 education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in
9 state and municipal government, safe environments for youth,
10 substance abuse, emotional and physical health, foster care, poverty,
11 homelessness, and youth access to services on a statewide and
12 municipal basis.

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

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

19 (4)(a) Students may apply annually to be considered for
20 participation in the program by completing an online application form
21 and submitting the application to the legislative youth advisory
22 council. The council may develop selection criteria and an
23 application review process. The council shall recommend candidates
24 whose names will be submitted to the office of the lieutenant
25 governor for final selection. The office of the lieutenant governor
26 shall notify all applicants of the final selections.

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

29 (5) Information about participating in the legislative youth
30 advisory council, including the application process and timeline,
31 shall be distributed by the Washington state school directors'
32 association.

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

35 (a) Advising the legislature on proposed and pending legislation,
36 including state budget expenditures and policy matters relating to
37 youth;

1 (b) Advising the standing committees of the legislature and study
2 commissions, committees, and task forces regarding issues relating to
3 youth;

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

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

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

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

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

17 (~~(6)~~) (7) In carrying out its duties under this section, the
18 council must meet at least three times per year. The council is
19 encouraged to use technology, such as remote videoconferencing
20 technology, to facilitate members' participation in meetings. The
21 council is encouraged to invite local state legislators to
22 participate in the meetings. The council is encouraged to poll other
23 students in order to get a broad perspective on various policy
24 issues. The council is encouraged to use technology to conduct
25 polling.

26 (~~(7)~~) (8) Members may be reimbursed as provided in RCW
27 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

28 (~~(8)~~) (9) The office of the lieutenant governor shall provide
29 administration, supervision, and facilitation support to the council.
30 In facilitating the program, the office of the lieutenant governor
31 may collaborate with the Washington state leadership board
32 established in RCW 43.388.010. The senate and house of
33 representatives may provide policy and fiscal briefings and
34 assistance with drafting proposed legislation. The senate and the
35 house of representatives shall each develop internal policies
36 relating to staff assistance provided to the council. Such policies
37 may include applicable internal personnel and practices guidelines,
38 resource use and expense reimbursement guidelines, and applicable
39 ethics mandates. Provision of funds, resources, and staff, as well as

1 the assignment and direction of staff, remains at all times within
2 the sole discretion of the chamber making the provision.

3 ~~((9))~~ (10) The office of the lieutenant governor, the
4 legislature, any agency of the legislature, and any official or
5 employee of such office or agency ~~(are)~~ is immune from liability
6 for any injury that is incurred by or caused by a member of the
7 legislative youth advisory council and that occurs while the member
8 of the council is performing duties of the council or is otherwise
9 engaged in activities or receiving services for which reimbursement
10 is allowed under subsection ~~((7))~~ (8) of this section. The immunity
11 provided by this subsection does not apply to an injury intentionally
12 caused by the act or omission of an employee or official of the
13 office of the lieutenant governor, the legislature, or any agency of
14 the legislature.

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

22 (2) Membership terms are as follows:

23 (a) The caucus consists of up to 49 members, with one member from
24 each legislative district, who are sixth, seventh, or eighth grade
25 students who attend a public school in the legislative district.

26 (b) The initial members on the caucus shall be equally balanced
27 between sixth and seventh grade students to the greatest extent
28 feasible. Sixth graders initially selected to the caucus shall serve
29 three-year terms. Seventh graders initially selected to the caucus
30 shall serve two-year terms. All students subsequently selected to the
31 caucus shall serve two-year terms.

32 (3) Members of the caucus shall serve as the vice chair for the
33 legislative district student council of the member's respective
34 legislative district.

35 (4) The caucus shall have the following duties:

36 (a) Advising the legislature on proposed and pending legislation,
37 including policy matters relating to youth;

1 (b) Advising the standing committees of the legislature and study
2 commissions, committees, and task forces regarding issues relating to
3 youth;

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

6 (d) Accepting and soliciting for grants and donations from public
7 and private sources to support the activities of the caucus; and

8 (e) Reporting annually by December 1st to the legislature on its
9 activities, including proposed legislation that implements
10 recommendations of the caucus.

11 (5) In carrying out its duties under this section, the caucus
12 must meet at least three times per year, including:

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

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

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

26 (7) When engaging in outreach and recruiting efforts to educate
27 students and schools about opportunities to participate in the youth
28 civic engagement caucus, the lieutenant governor and the Washington
29 state school directors' association, as applicable, shall comply with
30 the principles of the state pro-equity antiracism plan and playbook
31 developed by the office of equity to bridge opportunity gaps, reduce
32 disparities, and increase diversity of student membership.

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

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