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**SENATE BILL 5929**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senator C. Wilson; by request of Department of Social and Health Services

1 AN ACT Relating to changing the membership of the legislative-  
2 executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force; and  
3 amending RCW 74.08A.505.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.505 and 2018 c 126 s 3 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) A legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction  
8 oversight task force is established, with voting members as provided  
9 in this subsection. Task force membership shall include diverse,  
10 statewide representation and its membership shall reflect regional,  
11 racial, and cultural diversity to adequately represent the needs of  
12 all children and families in the state.

13 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from  
14 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

15 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint  
16 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
17 representatives.

18 (iii) The governor shall appoint eight members representing the  
19 following agencies: The department of social and health services; the  
20 department of children, youth, and families; the department of  
21 commerce; the employment security department; the office of the

1 superintendent of public instruction; the department of health; the  
2 department of corrections; and the state board for community and  
3 technical colleges.

4 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs, one from among the  
5 legislative members and one from among the executive branch members.  
6 The secretary of the department of social and health services shall  
7 convene the initial meeting of the task force.

8 (2) The governor shall appoint (~~five~~) eight nonvoting members  
9 to the task force representing the:

10 (a) (~~Commission~~) State commission on African American affairs;

11 (b) State commission on Hispanic affairs;

12 (c) State commission on Asian Pacific American affairs;

13 (d) Governor's office of Indian affairs; (~~and~~)

14 (e) Women's commission;

15 (f) LGBTQ commission;

16 (g) Office of equity; and

17 (h) Office of financial management.

18 (3) The cochairs of the intergenerational poverty advisory  
19 committee created in RCW 74.08A.510 shall serve as nonvoting members  
20 of the task force.

21 (4) The task force shall:

22 (a) Oversee the partner agencies' operation of the WorkFirst  
23 program and temporary assistance for needy families program to ensure  
24 that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients;

25 (b) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst  
26 program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of  
27 historically underrepresented populations, such as English language  
28 learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;

29 (c) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and  
30 the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-  
31 sufficiency;

32 (d) Collaborate with the advisory committee created in RCW  
33 74.08A.510 to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address  
34 adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty;

35 (e) Seek input on best practices for poverty reduction from  
36 service providers, community-based organizations, legislators, state  
37 agencies, stakeholders, the business community, and subject matter  
38 experts;

39 (f) Collaborate with partner agencies and the advisory committee  
40 to analyze available data and information regarding intergenerational

1 poverty in the state, with a primary focus on data and information  
2 regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle of poverty  
3 and welfare dependency unless outside intervention occurs; and

4 (g) Recommend policy actions to the governor and the legislature  
5 to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty and promote and  
6 encourage self-sufficiency.

7 (5) (a) The task force shall direct the department of social and  
8 health services to develop a five-year plan to reduce  
9 intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency, subject to  
10 oversight and approval by the task force. Upon approval by the task  
11 force, the department must submit the plan to the governor and the  
12 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.

13 (b) The task force shall review the five-year plan by December 1,  
14 2024, and shall direct the department to update the plan as  
15 determined necessary by the task force.

16 (6) The partner agencies must provide the task force with regular  
17 reports on:

18 (a) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome and  
19 performance measures established under this section;

20 (b) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of  
21 those trends and expenditures on client services, including services  
22 to historically underrepresented populations; and

23 (c) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful on  
24 the temporary assistance for needy families program and have lost  
25 their benefits either through sanction or the sixty-month time limit.

26 (7) Staff support for the task force, including administration of  
27 task force meetings, must be provided by the state agency members of  
28 the task force. Additional staff support for legislative members of  
29 the task force must be provided by senate committee services and the  
30 house of representatives office of program research.

31 (8) During (~~its~~ ~~their~~) their tenure, the state agency members  
32 of the task force shall respond in a timely manner to data requests  
33 from the cochairs.

34 (9) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for  
35 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
36 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they  
37 are elected officials or participating on behalf of an employer,

1 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for  
2 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

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