



2022 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

PROVIDING STIPENDS FOR LOW-INCOME OR UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF TASK FORCES

What needs to change?

Representation matters. Public policy is strongest when impacted communities have an opportunity to participate in the process. Unfortunately, current state law generally prohibits state agencies, boards and commissions from compensating community volunteers for their participation in taskforces and similar groups.

It is imperative that the communities who are disproportionately burdened by government decisions have a meaningful opportunity to participate in developing policy. The legislative process is enriched by the perspectives of community and we can do more to ensure that community members don't disproportionately shoulder the burden for offering their valuable perspective.

What is the solution? - [SSB 5793](#)

Washington State can increase the participation of impacted communities by allowing agencies, boards and commissions to compensate low-income and underrepresented community members with valuable lived experience for their participation in state taskforces and similar groups. Examples of valuable lived experience include:

- Sexual assault survivors contributing to the state Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and Sexual Assault Coordinated Community Response Task Force;
- Youth contributing to task force focused on the youth safety and well-being reporting;
- Impacted family members contributing to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Task Force; and
- Formerly incarcerated individuals and members of demographics disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system contributing to the state Jail Standards Taskforce.

What does this legislation do?

SB 5793 removes barriers preventing low-income and underrepresented communities with valuable lived experience from participating on state taskforces and similar groups. It allows a stipend for up to \$200 per day as compensation to taskforce participants who are:

- a) Low-income, defined as at or below 400% of the federal poverty level; or
- b) have valuable lived experience that will help the taskforces and similar groups craft well-informed policy recommendations.

The bill also allows for travel, lodging, and child/elder care reimbursement for eligible individuals.

Prime Sponsor:

Sen. Claire Wilson, D-30th

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