A-Engrossed

House Bill 2650

Ordered by the House April 10
Including House Amendments dated April 10

Sponsored by Representative BYNUM (at the request of Transforming Justice Coalition) (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor’s brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Establishes requirements for informal workgroups and task forces established by statute or member of Legislative Assembly. Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services to establish program for compensating eligible members of informal workgroups and task forces. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for program.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to groups assembled to discuss policy.

Whereas best practice is to have multiple perspectives engaged in developing policy solutions; and

Whereas people directly impacted by policy solutions, including people of color, rural communities and other historically underrepresented communities, have been historically left out of policy conversations; and

Whereas there are systemic barriers to people impacted by policies engaging in our democratic processes; and

Whereas people who are directly impacted by policies should be able to be compensated for their time without worry for losing their public benefits; and

Whereas it is in everyone’s interest to ensure that the voices of those directly impacted by the policy being discussed can be heard in an equitable and accessible manner; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Community-based organization” means an organization that is led by a representative of a community or of a significant segment of a community and that works to meet community needs and amplify strengths.

(b) “Historically underrepresented communities” includes but is not limited to people of color, ethnic minorities, communities of individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, nonbinary or another minority gender identity or sexual orientation community, people who speak languages other than English, people from rural areas and people with disabilities.

(c)(A) “Impacted person” means an individual who is the target of legislation being considered by a task force or work group, whose individual life is or would be disproportionately impacted by the legislation, or whose interests have been historically underrepresented in...
the political process relating to the legislation.

(B) “Impacted person” does not include an officer or employee of state or local government, unless the person is acting only in a personal capacity and not representing the interests of state or local government.

d) “Task force” means a group, created by statute for the purpose of discussing proposed legislation or recommendations for legislation, that lasts no longer than two years.

e)(A) “Work group” means an organized meeting or group of meetings convened by a member of the Legislative Assembly that is focused on the development of specific and initial bill language and involves the creation of an experience-based foundation for the legislation being worked on.

(B) “Work group” does not include a meeting between members of the Legislative Assembly or other stakeholders that involves advocacy for or against specific legislation.

(2) A task force or work group established by statute or by a member of the Legislative Assembly must meet the following requirements:

(a) Impacted persons and representatives of community-based organizations must comprise at least 50 percent of the membership of the task force or work group.

(b) At least 25 percent of the persons appointed to the task force or work group under paragraph (a) of this subsection must be impacted persons who are representatives of historically underrepresented communities or representatives of community-based organizations serving historically underrepresented communities.

(c) Members of the task force or work group who are not otherwise compensated for their participation must be compensated for time and travel by the Legislative Assembly in an amount equal to the per diem allowance allowed to members of the Legislative Assembly under ORS 171.072. A member may decline to accept compensation. Compensation under this paragraph shall be made in a manner that does not compromise a person’s eligibility for public benefits, and may be made in the form of cash, gift cards or contributions to an account established under ORS 178.335 within the Oregon 529 Savings Network or to a retirement savings plan account established under ORS 178.205. If a person elects to receive compensation in the form of cash, the person must be informed that receipt of cash compensation may impact eligibility for public benefits.

(d) In recognition that impacted persons do not perform these tasks as part of their regular professional duties, meetings of the work group or task force must, as much as possible, be scheduled at times that center participating impacted persons.

(e) Meetings of the task force or work group must, as much as possible, allow participants to participate remotely and to share thoughts through multiple means, including electronic mail and speaking at the meeting.