
HOUSE BILL 1818

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, McCaslin, Taylor, Haler, Klippert, and Schmick

Read first time 01/29/15. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a task force to determine the impacts
2 of adjusting the boundary lines of Washington to create two new
3 states with one state east and one state west of the Cascade mountain
4 range; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that since
7 statehood, the lifestyles, culture, and economies of eastern and
8 western Washington have been very distinct. Urbanization and rapid
9 growth in the western portion of Washington state have progressively
10 heightened this divergence of cultural and economic values from that
11 of the eastern portion of the state. The legislature further finds
12 that a reconsideration of the state boundary lines of Washington in
13 light of these divergences and similarities is in order.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A legislative task force on state
15 boundaries is established to determine the legal and political
16 processes of making boundary line changes necessary to adjust the
17 state boundary lines of Washington in order to create two new states
18 from the territories of Washington state, with one state east of the
19 Cascade mountain range and one state west of the Cascade mountain

1 range, and to determine the various impacts of creating the two new
2 states based on the assumption that their creation would occur.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The task force must determine: The
4 appropriateness and effect of using existing county boundary lines
5 versus creating new county boundary lines to form the two new states;
6 the population and land mass of each new state; the demographics of
7 each new state; the political distribution of each new state; the
8 distribution of each new state's assets, liabilities, and public
9 services; the economic impacts on each new state; the income levels
10 and tax bases of each new state; the impact on the provision of and
11 level of spending for education, health, and social services programs
12 in each new state; the distribution of jail and prison beds in each
13 new state; the distribution of various transportation modes, systems,
14 and infrastructure, and other infrastructure, service, and fiscal
15 impacts on each new state; and other considerations the task force
16 believes are relevant in defining or contrasting each new state.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The task force must consist of ten
18 members: Two from the house of representatives, one from each major
19 political caucus, appointed by the speaker of the house of
20 representatives; two from the senate, one from each major political
21 caucus, appointed by the president of the senate; and one member
22 representing the governor and appointed by the governor. The
23 legislative membership must include an equal number of
24 representatives from both the western and eastern portions of
25 Washington state.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The task force must be jointly staffed by
27 the appropriate legislative committee staff from the house of
28 representatives and senate.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The task force must report its findings
30 and conclusions to the legislature by September 30, 2015.

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