
SENATE BILL 5237

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Carlyle, Hunt, Saldaña, and Nguyen

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a work group to study and make
2 recommendations on a statue to replace Marcus Whitman; creating new
3 sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there is a
6 rich history in the United States and the state of Washington that
7 often may have competing narratives depending on the perspectives and
8 values of the individuals telling the story. Monuments are often
9 created to reinforce and elevate particular narratives and so it is
10 imperative that Washington state and the nation continue to engage in
11 revisiting the historical figures of our state and the nation.

12 (2) The legislature finds that under rigorous, objective review
13 Marcus Whitman does not meet the standards of being one our state's
14 top honorees with a statue display in Olympia and statuary hall in
15 the United States capitol. To address this, the legislature intends
16 to exercise its ability, through legislation enacted by the United
17 States congress in 2000, P.L. 106-554 Sec. 311, to replace the statue
18 of Marcus Whitman in the national statuary hall. The legislature also
19 intends to replace the statue of Marcus Whitman in the Washington
20 state capitol building. Therefore, the legislature intends to create
21 a work group to make recommendations regarding an appropriate

1 replacement for the Marcus Whitman statue and provide the information
2 needed to request that the joint committee of congress on the library
3 approve the replacement of the statue of Marcus Whitman with a new
4 statue.

5 (3) This section expires November 1, 2020.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A work group to study and make
7 recommendations on an appropriate historical figure to represent
8 Washington state in the state capitol and the national statuary hall
9 in the United States capitol is created. The work group membership
10 shall be composed of:

11 (a) The director of the department of archaeology and historic
12 preservation or his or her designee, who shall serve as the chair of
13 the work group;

14 (b) One member from each of the four major caucuses of the
15 legislature;

16 (c) The director of the Washington state historical society or
17 his or her designee;

18 (d) The director of the department of enterprise services or his
19 or her designee;

20 (e) A representative of the capitol campus design advisory
21 committee that is not the same member as another legislative member
22 already designated to be part of the work group;

23 (f) A representative from the legacy Washington program; and

24 (g) Four representatives from the public appointed by the
25 governor.

26 (2) The work group shall:

27 (a) Conduct a statewide tour that shall include at least five
28 meetings with at least two meetings on the east side of the Cascade
29 mountains to study and review Washington state history and recommend
30 three individuals who after a rigorous and objective review are
31 worthy of representing Washington state;

32 (b) Provide the names of the recommended individuals and their
33 qualifications;

34 (c) Recommend a committee or commission to represent the state in
35 selecting a sculptor for the new statue;

36 (d) Recommend where to display the replaced Marcus Whitman statue
37 from the national statuary hall after it is transferred back to
38 Washington state;

1 (e) Provide information regarding the anticipated funding needed
2 for:

3 (i) The design, carving, or casting of the statue based on the
4 guidelines set by the joint committee of congress on the library and
5 the architect of the capitol;

6 (ii) The design or fabrication of the pedestal;

7 (iii) Transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
8 States capitol;

9 (iv) An unveiling ceremony, if desired, or other expenses that
10 may be necessary for the statue replacement;

11 (v) Temporarily erecting the new statue on its pedestal in the
12 location approved for the unveiling ceremony, if desired; and

13 (vi) Removing and transporting the Marcus Whitman statue back to
14 Washington state; and

15 (f) Make recommendations regarding the funding sources that may
16 be available, which may include solicitation of private funds or a
17 method for obtaining the necessary funds.

18 (3) Legislative members of the work group shall be reimbursed for
19 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
20 members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with
21 chapter 43.03 RCW.

22 (4) The work group shall submit a report of its recommendations
23 to the appropriate committees of the legislature in accordance with
24 RCW 43.01.036 by November 1, 2019.

25 (5) This section expires November 1, 2020.

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