
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5265

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Zeiger, Hunt, Bailey, and Hawkins)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging the role of volunteerism within
2 state government; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that volunteers play
6 an important role in enriching our communities. This is true not only
7 for society at large, but also within state government specifically.
8 Volunteering not only produces positive results for the recipients of
9 the efforts, but for the volunteers themselves, who are rewarded with
10 new life experiences and a greater connection to their community.

11 The legislature further finds while many individuals from the
12 baby boomer generation are leaving the workforce, many are still
13 seeking way ways to contribute and make a difference in their
14 communities, and volunteering provides one such pathway.

15 Therefore, the legislature intends that a thorough review be
16 conducted that examines the existing role of volunteering within
17 state government and considers ways to increase and expand volunteer
18 opportunities.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Serve Washington must conduct a study
20 to review volunteer opportunities within state government. The study

1 must include the Washington state parks and recreation commission,
2 the department of fish and wildlife, the Washington military
3 department, the Washington state office of the insurance
4 commissioner, state mental hospital programs, state developmental
5 disability programs, state litter clean-up programs, and may include
6 any other agency or program identified by serve Washington. The study
7 must:

8 (a) Evaluate volunteer utilization, including any need for
9 additional volunteers in existing programs;

10 (b) Provide the costs and benefits of volunteer programs;

11 (c) Identify any barriers to volunteerism;

12 (d) Provide recommendations for ways to remove barriers to
13 volunteerism;

14 (e) Provide recommendations for how the state can support
15 agencies in growing volunteer programs that will supplement rather
16 than replace or reduce staff or services;

17 (f) Identify any additional programs that could accommodate
18 volunteers in the future; and

19 (g) Recommend methods for strengthening connections between state
20 agency volunteer programs and the state's volunteer infrastructure to
21 support volunteer recruitment, volunteer engagement, and volunteer
22 program training needs to improve program outcomes.

23 (2) By July 1, 2020, serve Washington must submit a report that
24 presents information and findings from the review conducted under
25 this section to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of
26 representatives.

27 (3) This section expires July 1, 2020.

--- END ---