YOUTH VIOLENCE

The 1994 Youth Violence Prevention Act, chapter 7, Laws of 1994, 1st. sp.s. (E2SHB 2319), sets forth a comprehensive approach for preventing and reducing youth violence. This approach includes strategies in a number of areas, including public health analysis of factors contributing to youth violence; expanded and better coordinated early intervention and prevention services; increased penalties for juvenile crime; new restrictions on firearms possession and use; and monitoring violence in the media. The approach also includes tax increases to finance the additional spending required by the bill. Some of the major components of the Youth Violence funding package include:

Community Public Health and Safety Networks

Broadly-representative community councils will be established to plan and coordinate local strategies for reducing the number of young people at risk of juvenile crime, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, suicide, substance abuse, and school drop-out. State and federal funds are provided for two purposes: (1) local network organization and comprehensive planning; and (2) grants for direct services projects which demonstrate a clear ability to reduce the number of at-risk children and youth. A total of $6 million ($4.1 million General Fund-State) is provided for the networks.

Youth Employment and Training

New funding is provided for three efforts: (1) start-up grants to expand afternoon and evening school-to-work programs for young people who have dropped out of high school, or who are at significant risk of doing so; (2) the Youthbuild program, which provides young people with training in the building and construction trades on projects which improve low-income housing; and (3) Learning and Life Skills Centers, which will be cooperative efforts between local school districts and the state juvenile rehabilitation program to improve education and employment outcomes for court-involved youth. A total of $2.25 million General Fund-State is provided for youth employment and training.

State Corrections and Juvenile Rehabilitation Services

State prison and juvenile institution populations will increase due to increased penalties for offenses such as possession of a firearm by a minor, use of a firearm in a crime, and commission of a new crime while on parole. Sixteen and seventeen year-old serious and chronic violent offenders will automatically be tried and sentenced as adults, resulting in longer terms of incarceration. Additionally, funds are provided to develop a number of improvements in the state juvenile system, such as establishing a juvenile offender basic training ("boot") camp, planning improved vocational and substance abuse programming in state juvenile institutions, and developing a master capital plan for developing additional state and local juvenile detention space. A total of $4.1 million General Fund-State is provided for state corrections and juvenile rehabilitation services.

County Consolidated Juvenile Services

County juvenile programs are provided an approximately 25 percent increase in second-year funding to support increased local detention and rehabilitation efforts. A total of $2.8 million General Fund-State is provided for county consolidated juvenile services.

Public Health Efforts

Public health departments will study the incidence of, and factors contributing to, juvenile crime, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, suicide, teen substance abuse, and school drop-out. This information will be used to plan and monitor the effectiveness of local efforts to reduce such problems. A total of $1.2 million General Fund-State is provided for local public health efforts.

Financing

Approximately $94 million of taxes on beer, wine, liquor, carbonated beverages, and cigarettes which currently finance programs authorized under the 1989 Omnibus Alcohol and Controlled Substances Act are due to expire at the end of the 1993-95 biennium. To continue funding for those programs, and to provide an additional $23 million of new funding for the violence prevention strategies identified above, the Youth Violence Act authorizes the following taxes totaling $117 million, subject to ratification by the voters at the November 1994 general election.

Cigarettes: The 3 cents per pack tax which funds current drug programs is increased to 10.5 cents per pack. 1995-97 revenues from this source are estimated at $81 million.

Beer, Wine, and Liquor: Current drug enforcement and education account taxes on beer, wine, and spirits which were due to expire July 1, 1995 are extended, for 1995-97 revenues estimated at $19 million.

Carbonated Beverages: The current 1 cent per can tax on soda pop will expire July 1, 1995. The current 75 cents per gallon tax on soda pop syrup is extended, and increased to $1 per gallon, for total 1995-97 revenues estimated at $17 million.

In addition to the above taxes subject to voter approval, the Youth Violence Prevention Act also authorizes the following fee increases:

Concealed Pistol Licenses: The initial fee for a concealed pistol license is increased from $23 to $50, and the renewal fee is increased from $15 to $50. This is expected to raise an additional $2.6 million per biennium.

Firearms Dealers Licenses: The licensing fee for dealers of pistols, firearms, or ammunition is increased from $5 to $125. This is expected to raise an additional $0.4 million per year.

Youth Violence Act (E2SHB 2319)

Summary of 1994 Supplemental Operating Budget Appropriations

(Dollars in Thousands)

Agency	Program	1993-95 GF-S	1993-95 Other	1993-95 Total
Dept of Community, Trade & Economic Development	Sexual Assault Prevention	1,059	0	1,059
Department of Social & Health Services	Family Council Block Grants	4,142	1,858	6,000
" "	Consolidated Juvenile Services	2,800	0	2,800
" "	Learning Center Grants	650	0	650
" "	Juvenile Sentencing and Rehabilitation	3,589	0	3,589
" "	Juvenile Rehabilitation Capital Plan	0	300	300
Department of Health	DOH: Risk and Protection	1,158	0	1,158
Department of Corrections	Adult Sentencing	532	0	532
Department of Employment Security	Youthbuild Program	600	0	600
Department of Licensing	Firearms Licensing	120	0	120
Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction	School-to-Work Transition Programs	1,000	0	1,000
	Total	**15,650**	**2,158**	**17,808**

Summary of Taxes (subject to voter referendum)

(Revenue Dollars in Thousands)

Tax	Description	1995-97 GF-State	1995-97 VRDE*	1995-97 Total
Cigarette Tax	Expiring $0.03 tax increased to $0.105 cents and extended beginning July 1, 1995.	1,292	79,270	80,562
Spirits Liter Tax	Expiring $0.07 per liter tax extended beginning July 1, 1995.	0	3,429	3,429
Beer Tax	Expiring tax of $2.00 per barrel of 31 gallons extended beginning July 1, 1995.	0	13,649	13,649
Wine Tax	Expiring $0.01 per liter tax ($0.2344 for fortified wine) extended beginning July 1, 1995.	0	2,092	2,092
Carbonated Beverage Tax	Tax of $0.084 per ounce expires. Tax of $0.75 per gallon of carbonate beverage syrup increased to $1.00 and extended beginning July 1, 1995.	0	17,184	17,184
	Total	**1,292**	**115,624**	**116,916**

* Violence Reduction and Drug Enforcement Account

WASHINGTON PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP

The Washington Performance Partnership is established in statute through chapter 184, Laws of 1994 (ESB 6601). The Partnership represents a bipartisan effort to more clearly define the mission of state government and restructure state operations to ensure that they comply with this mission. There are four primary factors that distinguish the Partnership from previous efforts to promote governmental efficiency:

1. **Focus on the customer**, because the customers of state government should determine the direction and intended results of state government.

2. **Enter into a partnership with state employees**, who are our most valuable resource and essential to achieving greater efficiency in state government.

3. **Make a long-term commitment to the process**, because the Partnership is not an "event."

4. **Change the culture of state government**, by requiring a new way of operating in state government.

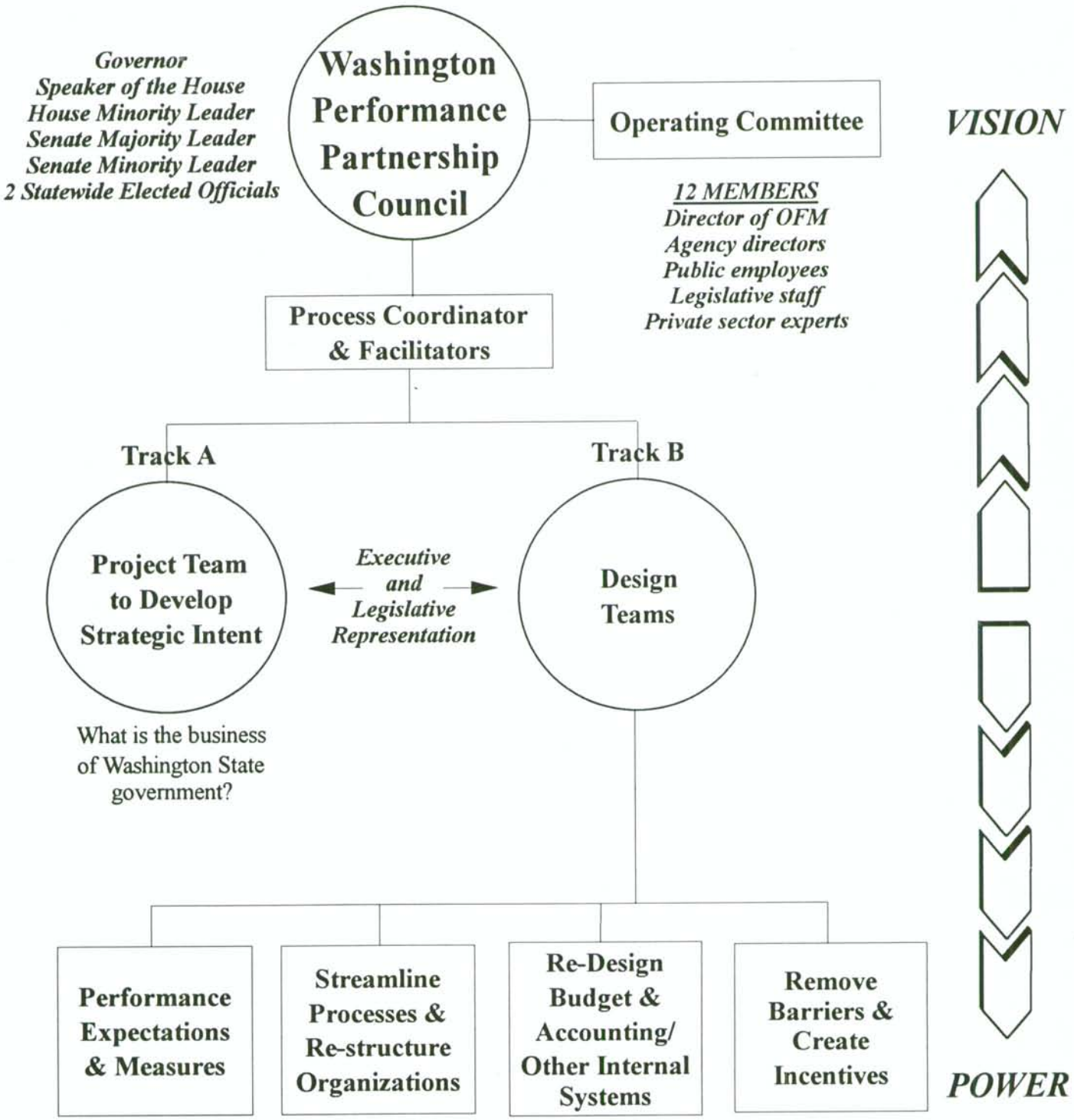
Efforts will begin immediately to find ways to operate more efficiently, more cost-effectively, and with more accountability to Washington citizens. The supplemental budget provides $500,000 General Fund-State for the Washington Performance Partnership Council which is established in the legislation. The seven-member council is chaired jointly by the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Majority Leader of the Senate. Also represented are the minority party leaders from the House and Senate and two statewide elected officials to be appointed by the Governor. The council will provide overall management and policy guidance for the Washington Performance Partnership.

The legislation also requires the council to appoint a twelve-member performance partnership operating committee composed of legislative and executive branch staff, state agency directors, state employees and their representatives, and private sector specialists. The operating committee will focus on the day-to-day operations of the improvement process and the allocation of necessary staff resources. The committee will also facilitate work teams and design teams comprised of state employees, state employee organizations, customers, managers, legislators or legislative employees, and experts from outside government to accomplish the following:

1. **Clarify and state the strategic intent for Washington State government**. This would include a clear statement of the general goals for the state, the basic services that citizens desire, and the priorities and values which are centered on the customers of state government.

2. **Focus on continuous improvement of state government services**. Successful strategies will be developed to: (a) clearly identify the intended result of each state government service or program, and measure and communicate performance toward the intended result; (b) assess each activity and function of government to identify the value added toward the general strategic intent of state government, (c) redesign the internal systems that support state government to be more consistent with a priority-driven, results-oriented, performance-based system of government; and (d) identify and remove barriers to performance and create incentives for better performance and cost-effectiveness.

3. **Redesign the state operating budget process**. The current budget process is generally based on the presumption of continuing current service levels, giving consideration only to "marginal" changes. It is also not well understood or supported by the public or state government policymakers. Consequently, the Partnership calls for the state budget to be redesigned by the 1997-99 biennium, to reflect an effective state-wide system of performance measurement and based on a clear statement of priorities.

The chart on the following page outlines the leadership and implementation process for the Washington Performance Partnership.

Leadership and Implementation Process