

1 **2SSB 5108** - H AMD TO CJC COMM AMD (H 2607.1/99) **0147 NOT CONSIDERED**
2 **04/15/99**

3 By Representative O'Brien

4 On page 1, after line 35 of the striking amendment, insert:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds a compelling need
6 to address the problem of missing children, whether those children have
7 been abducted by a stranger, are missing due to custodial interference,
8 or are classified as runaways. Washington state ranks twelfth in the
9 nation for active cases of missing juveniles and, at any given time,
10 more than one thousand eight hundred Washington children are reported
11 as missing. The potential for physical and psychological trauma to
12 these children is extreme.

13 Therefore, the legislature finds that it is paramount for the
14 safety of these children that there be a concerted effort to resolve
15 cases of missing and exploited children.

16 Due to the complexity of many child abduction cases, most law
17 enforcement personnel are unprepared and lack adequate resources to
18 successfully and efficiently investigate these crimes. Therefore, it is
19 the intent of the legislature that a multiagency task force be
20 established within the Washington state patrol, to be available to
21 assist local jurisdictions in missing child cases through referrals,
22 on-site assistance, case management, and training. The legislature
23 intends that the task force will increase the effectiveness of a
24 specific case investigation by drawing from the combined resources,
25 knowledge, and technical expertise of the members of the task force.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A task force on missing and exploited
27 children is established in the Washington state patrol. The task force
28 shall be under the direction of the chief of the state patrol.

29 (2) The task force is authorized to assist law enforcement
30 agencies, upon request, in cases involving missing or exploited
31 children by:

- 32 (a) Direct assistance and case management;
33 (b) Technical assistance;
34 (c) Personnel training;

1 (d) Referral for assistance from local, state, national, and
2 international agencies; and

3 (e) Coordination and information sharing among local, state,
4 interstate, and federal law enforcement and social service agencies.

5 (3) To maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of state
6 resources and to improve interagency cooperation, the task force shall,
7 where feasible, use existing facilities, systems, and staff made
8 available by the state patrol and other local, state, interstate, and
9 federal law enforcement and social service agencies. The chief of the
10 state patrol may employ such additional personnel as are necessary for
11 the work of the task force and may share personnel costs with other
12 agencies.

13 (4) The chief of the state patrol shall seek public and private
14 grants and gifts to support the work of the task force.

15 (5) By December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the chief of the
16 state patrol shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
17 legislature. The report shall establish performance measurements and
18 objectives for the task force and assess the accomplishments of the
19 task force.

20 (6) For the purposes of sections 2 through 3 of this act,
21 "exploited children" means children under the age of eighteen who are
22 employed, used, persuaded, induced, enticed, or coerced to engage in,
23 or assist another person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct.
24 "Exploited children" also means the rape, molestation, or use for
25 prostitution of children under the age of eighteen.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the
27 Teekah Lewis act.

28
29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added
30 to chapter 13.60 RCW.-

31 --- END ---

EFFECT: Re-institutes a multi-agency task force within the Washington State Patrol to assist local law enforcement agencies in finding missing and exploited children; defines exploited children;- and requires the chief of the state patrol to seek public and private grants and gifts to support the work of the task force.