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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5108**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Patterson, Johnson, Eide, Rossi, Prentice, T. Sheldon, Winsley, McAuliffe, Oke, Kohl-Welles and Costa; by request of Lieutenant Governor)

Read first time 02/03/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to missing and exploited children; amending RCW  
2 43.08.250; adding new sections to chapter 13.60 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds a compelling need to  
6 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. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is  
13 paramount for the safety of these children that there be a concerted  
14 effort to resolve cases of missing and exploited children.

15 Due to the complexity of many child abduction cases, most law  
16 enforcement personnel are unprepared and lack adequate resources to  
17 successfully and efficiently investigate these crimes. Therefore, it  
18 is the intent of the legislature that a multiagency task force be  
19 established within the Washington state patrol, to be available to

1 assist local jurisdictions in missing child cases through referrals,  
2 on-site assistance, case management, and training. The legislature  
3 intends that the task force will increase the effectiveness of a  
4 specific case investigation by drawing from the combined resources,  
5 knowledge, and technical expertise of the members of the task force.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A task force on missing and exploited  
7 children is established in the Washington state patrol. The task force  
8 shall be under the direction of the chief of the state patrol.

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

12 (a) Direct assistance and case management;

13 (b) Technical assistance;

14 (c) Personnel training;

15 (d) Referral for assistance from local, state, national, and  
16 international agencies; and

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

19 (3) To maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of state resources  
20 and to improve interagency cooperation, the task force shall, where  
21 feasible, use existing facilities, systems, and staff made available by  
22 the state patrol and other local, state, interstate, and federal law  
23 enforcement and social service agencies. The chief of the state patrol  
24 may employ such additional personnel as are necessary for the work of  
25 the task force and may share personnel costs with other agencies.

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

28 (5) By December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the chief of the  
29 state patrol shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the  
30 legislature. The report shall establish performance measurements and  
31 objectives for the task force and assess the accomplishments of the  
32 task force.

33 (6) For the purposes of sections 1 through 3 of this act,  
34 "exploited children" means children under the age of eighteen who are  
35 employed, used, persuaded, induced, enticed, or coerced to engage in,  
36 or assist another person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct.  
37 "Exploited children" also means the rape, molestation, or use for  
38 prostitution of children under the age of eighteen.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The advisory board on missing and exploited  
2 children is established to advise the chief of the Washington state  
3 patrol on the objectives, conduct, management, and coordination of the  
4 various activities of the task force on missing and exploited children.

5        (1) The chief of the state patrol shall appoint five members to the  
6 advisory board: (a) One member shall be a county prosecuting attorney  
7 or a representative and shall be appointed in consultation with the  
8 elected county prosecutors; (b) two members shall be a municipal police  
9 chief and a county sheriff, or their representatives, and shall be  
10 appointed in consultation with the association of sheriffs and police  
11 chiefs under RCW 36.28A.010; (c) one member shall be a representative  
12 of the state patrol; and (d) one member shall be a representative of  
13 parents of missing or exploited children.

14        (2) A sixth member of the board shall represent and be appointed by  
15 the attorney general.

16        (3) To improve interagency communication and coordination, the  
17 chief of the state patrol shall invite representatives of federal law  
18 enforcement agencies and state social service agencies to participate  
19 in the advisory board.

20        (4) The members of the board shall be qualified on the basis of  
21 knowledge and experience as may contribute to the effective performance  
22 of the board's duties. The board shall elect its own chair from among  
23 its members. Meetings of the board may be convened at the call of the  
24 chair or by a majority of the members.

25        (5) The term of each member of the board shall be two years and  
26 shall be conditioned upon the member retaining the official position  
27 from which the member was appointed.

28        **Sec. 4.**    RCW 43.08.250 and 1997 c 149 s 910 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30        The money received by the state treasurer from fees, fines,  
31 forfeitures, penalties, reimbursements or assessments by any court  
32 organized under Title 3 or 35 RCW, or chapter 2.08 RCW, shall be  
33 deposited in the public safety and education account which is hereby  
34 created in the state treasury. The legislature shall appropriate the  
35 funds in the account to promote traffic safety education, highway  
36 safety, criminal justice training, crime victims' compensation,  
37 judicial education, the judicial information system, the task force on  
38 missing and exploited children, civil representation of indigent

1 persons, winter recreation parking, and state game programs. During  
2 the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 1999, the legislature may  
3 appropriate moneys from the public safety and education account for  
4 purposes of appellate indigent defense, the criminal litigation unit of  
5 the attorney general's office, the treatment alternatives to street  
6 crimes program, crime victims advocacy programs, justice information  
7 network telecommunication planning, sexual assault treatment,  
8 operations of the office of administrator for the courts, security in  
9 the common schools, criminal justice data collection, and Washington  
10 state patrol criminal justice activities.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act may be known and cited as the  
12 Teekah Lewis act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each  
14 added to chapter 13.60 RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of ..... dollars, or as much thereof  
16 as may be necessary, is appropriated from the public safety and  
17 education account to the Washington state patrol for the fiscal  
18 biennium ending June 30, 2001, to carry out the purposes of this act.

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