
SENATE BILL 5108

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Patterson, Johnson, Eide, Rossi, Prentice, T. Sheldon, Winsley, McAuliffe, Oke, Kohl-Welles and Costa; by request of Lieutenant Governor

Read first time 01/13/1999. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to missing and exploited children; amending RCW
2 43.08.250; adding new sections to chapter 13.60; and making an
3 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, and
18 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, and federal law enforcement
23 and social service agencies. The chief of the state patrol may employ
24 such additional personnel as are necessary for the work of the task
25 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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The advisory board on missing and exploited
34 children is established to advise the chief of the Washington state
35 patrol on the objectives, conduct, management, and coordination of the
36 various activities of the task force on missing and exploited children.

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

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

12 (3) To improve interagency communication and coordination, the
13 chief of the state patrol shall invite representatives of federal law
14 enforcement agencies and state social service agencies to participate
15 in the advisory board.

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

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

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

26 The money received by the state treasurer from fees, fines,
27 forfeitures, penalties, reimbursements or assessments by any court
28 organized under Title 3 or 35 RCW, or chapter 2.08 RCW, shall be
29 deposited in the public safety and education account which is hereby
30 created in the state treasury. The legislature shall appropriate the
31 funds in the account to promote traffic safety education, highway
32 safety, criminal justice training, crime victims' compensation,
33 judicial education, the judicial information system, the task force on
34 missing and exploited children, civil representation of indigent
35 persons, winter recreation parking, and state game programs. During
36 the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 1999, the legislature may
37 appropriate moneys from the public safety and education account for
38 purposes of appellate indigent defense, the criminal litigation unit of

1 the attorney general's office, the treatment alternatives to street
2 crimes program, crime victims advocacy programs, justice information
3 network telecommunication planning, sexual assault treatment,
4 operations of the office of administrator for the courts, security in
5 the common schools, criminal justice data collection, and Washington
6 state patrol criminal justice activities.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each
8 added to chapter 13.60 RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of dollars, or as much thereof
10 as may be necessary, is appropriated from the public safety and
11 education account to the Washington state patrol for the fiscal
12 biennium ending June 30, 2001, to carry out the purposes of this act.

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