
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6255

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections
(originally sponsored by Senators Brandland, Kline, McCaslin, Regala,
Winsley, Roach, Kohl-Welles, Rasmussen and Parlette)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying criminal background check processes;
2 creating new sections; making an appropriation; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that criminal history
6 record information background checks for employment purposes are
7 rapidly increasing in Washington state. While the demand for criminal
8 history record information background checks is growing, the existing
9 criminal history record information background check data transmission
10 infrastructure and processes are not adequate to keep pace with the
11 growing demand. Furthermore, employers are concerned with the current
12 system's ability to quickly secure results. Without adequate data
13 transmission infrastructure and processes to encourage efficient
14 criminal history record information background checks and to receive
15 results quickly, a public safety risk is created. This is especially
16 true when new or prospective employees will be working with children.

17 The legislature has learned that some states have recently
18 developed comprehensive criminal history record information background
19 check programs. These programs focus on making criminal history record

1 information background checks easily accessible to employers and
2 prospective employees and have eliminated long response times. It is
3 the intent of this act to study advances with criminal history record
4 information background check programs in other states and determine
5 what is needed to implement similar programs in Washington state.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) In consultation with the Washington
7 State Patrol and employers and nonprofit corporations who request
8 background information on employees or volunteers, the Washington
9 association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall conduct a study on
10 criminal history record information background checks. The study shall
11 focus on how Washington state can reduce delays in the criminal history
12 record information background check processing time and how Washington
13 state can make criminal history record information background checks
14 more accessible and efficient.

15 (2) The study shall include, but is not limited to:

16 (a) A review and analysis of the criminal history record
17 information background check programs in states that have recently
18 implemented or are soon to implement comprehensive criminal history
19 record information background check programs.

20 (b) Recommendations on how a comprehensive criminal history record
21 information background check program should be designed in Washington
22 state, and how much a comprehensive program would cost to implement in
23 Washington state.

24 (c) A review of how a comprehensive criminal history record
25 information background check program could be paid for in Washington
26 state, which includes a determination on whether the program could be
27 funded solely by user fees.

28 (d) A review of the benefits and obstacles of implementing a
29 criminal history record information background check program created by
30 the national child protection act of 1993. The national child
31 protection act of 1993 increases the availability of criminal history
32 record information background checks for employers who have employees
33 or volunteers who work with children, elderly persons, or persons with
34 disabilities.

35 (e) Upon completion of the review in (d) of this subsection,
36 recommendations on how Washington state can make criminal history

1 record information background checks, as authorized under the national
2 child protection act of 1993, available to Washington state employers.

3 (3) The findings and recommendations from the study shall be
4 presented to the legislature no later than December 31, 2004.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires December 31, 2004.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of forty-five thousand dollars, or
7 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
8 year ending June 30, 2004, from the general fund to the Washington
9 association of sheriffs and police chiefs for the purposes of this act.

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