
**Criminal Justice & Corrections
Committee**

SSB 5157

Brief Description: Revising provisions relating to local law enforcement automatic fingerprint identification systems.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Regala, Carrell, Kline, Roach, Zarelli, Kastama, Oke, Franklin, Brandland, McCaslin and Shin).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Authorizes local law enforcement agencies to purchase or lease automatic fingerprint identification systems from any vendor, provided that the system complies with national industry standards for interoperability with the state system operated by the Washington State Patrol.

Hearing Date: 3/29/05

Staff: Kathryn Leathers (786-7114).

Background:

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is responsible for developing, maintaining and operating the state-wide automatic fingerprint information system. Every local, county, and state law enforcement agency is required to obtain fingerprints of all adults and juveniles arrested for any felony or gross misdemeanor. These fingerprints must be transmitted electronically to the WSP within 72 hours of the suspect's arrest.

Local law enforcement agencies may establish or operate an automatic fingerprint identification system only if both the hardware and software of the local system are compatible with that of the state system. In addition, these local systems must be able to electronically transmit data to, and receive and answer inquiries from, the WSP's system. Any local or county law enforcement agency that purchased an automatic fingerprint identification system before January 1, 1987, is exempt from the compatibility requirements.

Currently any local or county law enforcement agency choosing to operate a fingerprint identification system must contract with the same vendor used by the WSP in order to meet the compatibility requirements.

Fingerprints, also known as "ten prints," are prints taken from arrested or charged persons. "Latent" fingerprints include those fingerprints left at crime scenes.

Summary of Bill:

Local law enforcement agencies are authorized to use an automatic fingerprint identification system which uses an interface for both its hardware and software that is compatible with the WSP state-wide automatic fingerprint identification system. Local law enforcement agencies must be able to transmit "ten print" fingerprint records to the state automatic fingerprint identification system, and the state must be able to accept these ten-print records. When industry transmission protocols change, the WSP must incorporate these new standards as long as funding and reasonable system engineering practices permit.

No later than January 1, 2007, the state fingerprint system must be able to accept electronic latent search records from any local law enforcement agency. If, by June 30, 2006, funding is not received for transmission of latent search records in the omnibus appropriations act, or otherwise obtained from another source, the latent search records transmission requirement is null and void.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.