
SENATE BILL 6717

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Brandland, McAuliffe, Hargrove, Rockefeller, Shin, Rasmussen, Schmidt and Stevens

Read first time 01/19/2006. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the joint task force on criminal background
2 check processes; reenacting and amending 2005 c 452 s 1 (uncodified);
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** 2005 c 452 s 1 (uncodified) is reenacted and amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) A joint task force on criminal background check processes is
8 established. The joint task force shall consist of the following
9 members:

10 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,
11 appointed by the president of the senate;

12 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
13 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
14 representatives;

15 (c) The chief of the Washington state patrol, or the chief's
16 designee;

17 (d) The secretary of the department of social and health services,
18 or the secretary's designee;

1 (e) The state superintendent of public instruction, or the
2 superintendent's designee;

3 (f) An elected sheriff or police chief, selected by the Washington
4 association of sheriffs and police chiefs; and

5 (g) The following eleven members, jointly appointed by the speaker
6 of the house of representatives and the president of the senate:

7 (i) A representative from a nonprofit service organization that
8 serves primarily children under sixteen years of age;

9 (ii) A health care provider as defined in RCW 7.70.020;

10 (iii) A representative from a business or organization that
11 primarily serves persons with a developmental disability;

12 (iv) A representative from a local youth athletic association;

13 (v) A representative from the insurance industry;

14 (vi) Two representatives from a local parks and recreation program;
15 one member shall be selected by the association of Washington cities
16 and one member shall be selected by the Washington association of
17 counties;

18 (vii) A representative from a for-profit entity that primarily
19 serves children;

20 (viii) A representative from a business or organization that
21 primarily serves vulnerable adults;

22 (ix) A representative selected by the state's long-term care
23 ombudsman; and

24 (x) As a nonvoting ex officio member, a representative of an
25 organization that serves as a clearinghouse for other nonprofit
26 organizations in the state and that recruits volunteers and trains
27 nonprofit boards of directors.

28 (2) The task force shall choose two cochairs from among its
29 membership.

30 (3) The task force shall review and make recommendations to the
31 legislature and the governor regarding criminal background check policy
32 in Washington state. In preparing the recommendations, the committee
33 shall, at a minimum, review the following issues:

34 (a) What state and federal statutes require regarding criminal
35 background checks, and determine whether any changes should be made;

36 (b) What criminal offenses are currently reportable through the
37 criminal background check program, and determine whether any changes
38 should be made;

1 (c) What information is available through the Washington state
2 patrol and the federal bureau of investigation criminal background
3 check systems, and determine whether any changes should be made;

4 (d) What are the best practices among organizations for obtaining
5 criminal background checks on their employees and volunteers;

6 (e) What is the feasibility and costs for businesses and
7 organizations to do periodic background checks;

8 (f) What is the feasibility of requiring all businesses and
9 organizations, including nonprofit entities, to conduct criminal
10 background checks for all employees, contractors, agents, and
11 volunteers who have regularly scheduled supervised or unsupervised
12 access to children, persons with a developmental disability, or
13 vulnerable adults;

14 (g) What is the feasibility of establishing a state registration
15 program for private youth sports coaches under which some or all of
16 such persons are required to obtain and disclose to prospective clients
17 and employers a copy of the results of their fingerprint-based criminal
18 background checks;

19 (h) A review of the practices of the department of social and
20 health services with respect to checking the backgrounds of its
21 employees, applicants for employment, and candidates for promotion; and

22 (i) A review of the benefits and obstacles of implementing a
23 criminal history record information background check program created by
24 the national child protection act of 1993. The national child
25 protection act of 1993 increases the availability of criminal history
26 record information background checks for employers who have employees
27 or volunteers who work with children, elderly persons, or persons with
28 disabilities.

29 (4) The task force, where feasible, may consult with individuals
30 from the public and private sector.

31 (5) The task force shall use legislative facilities and staff from
32 senate committee services and the house office of program research.

33 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
34 the legislature by December 31, ((2005)) 2006.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act expires January 31, 2007.

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