S-1037.1

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**SENATE BILL 5589**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senators O'Ban, Pedersen, Pearson, and Roach

AN ACT Relating to fairness in disciplinary actions of peace officers who appear on a prosecuting attorney's potential impeachment list; adding a new section to chapter 10.93 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The United States supreme court has consistently found that prosecutors have the duty to disclose potentially exculpatory evidence to defense attorneys prior to trial. Some of the information that is being disclosed about government witnesses, often law enforcement officers, has not been substantiated or proven to any degree. This act prohibits a law enforcement agency from taking punitive action against a peace officer solely because the officer's name was placed on a potential impeachment list. This act specifically does not prohibit a law enforcement agency from taking punitive or personnel action against a peace officer based on the underlying acts or omissions for which that officer's name was placed on the list.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 10.93 RCW to read as follows:

A disciplinary action or any other adverse personnel action may not be undertaken by a law enforcement agency against a peace officer solely because that officer's name has been placed on a list maintained by a prosecuting attorney's office of recurring witnesses for whom there is known potential impeachment information, or that the officer's name may otherwise be subject to disclosure pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). This section does not prohibit a law enforcement agency from taking disciplinary action or any other adverse personnel action against a peace officer based on the underlying acts or omissions for which that officer's name was placed on a prosecutor-maintained list, or may otherwise be subject to disclosure pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), if the actions taken by the law enforcement agency otherwise conform to the rules and procedures adopted by the law enforcement agency as determined through collective bargaining.

**--- END ---**