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## Public Safety Committee

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### 2SSB 5311

**Brief Description:** Requiring crisis intervention training for peace officers.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rolfes, O'Ban, Frockt, Darneille, Keiser, McCoy, Kohl-Welles, Hasegawa and Jayapal).

#### Brief Summary of Second Substitute Bill

- Requires the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) to provide crisis intervention training to all full-time law enforcement officers.
- Requires new full-time law enforcement officers to receive eight hours of training at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy.
- Requires certified officers to: (1) initially receive eight hours of training; and (2) receive two hours of annual retraining thereafter.
- Requires the CJTC, within any remaining appropriated funds, to make efforts to provide 40 hours of enhanced crisis intervention training to at least 25 percent of all officers on patrol duties.
- Requires the CJTC to establish by rule: (1) a program and standards by which to certify organizations, other than the CJTC, that may provide crisis intervention training; (2) provide grants to reimburse those agencies that send officers to crisis intervention training; and (3) standards for successful completion of the annual training.

**Hearing Date:** 3/20/15

**Staff:** Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

#### Background:

The Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) provides basic law enforcement training, and educational programs for law enforcement, corrections, and other public safety professionals in Washington.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Basic law enforcement officer training is generally required of all law enforcement officers, with the exception of volunteers, and reserve officers employed in Washington. The Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) consists of a 720-hour program covering a wide variety of subjects including: criminal law and procedures, traffic enforcement, cultural awareness, communication and writing skills, emergency vehicle operations, firearms, crisis intervention, patrol procedures, and criminal investigation and defensive tactics.

All law enforcement personnel hired, transferred, or promoted, are required to complete the core training requirements within six months, unless the employee receives a waiver from the CJTC.

In addition to the BLEA, the CJTC provides specialized training to:

- persons responsible for investigating and interviewing children for child sexual abuse and neglect cases;
- law enforcement officers on vehicular pursuits;
- law enforcement officers on how to interact with persons with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses;
- law enforcement officers on how to identify, respond to, and report malicious harassment crimes and other crimes of bigotry or bias;
- law enforcement officers on investigating and interviewing techniques for cases involving child abuse and neglect;
- law enforcement and corrections officers hired or promoted to first level supervisors and middle management positions; and
- criminal justice, correctional personnel, and other public safety employees on personal crisis recognition and crisis intervention services.

The CJTC contracts with King County to provide crisis intervention training to only King County law enforcement officers. The training is funded by the Mental Illness Drug Dependency tax (known as MIDD) which is levied in King County. This crisis intervention training provides a combination of a 40-hour course, an eight-hour retraining class, and some defensive tactics training taught in combination with the crisis intervention training.

### **Summary of Bill:**

The CJTC must provide all new full-time law enforcement officers that are hired after July 1, 2017, with a minimum of eight hours of crisis intervention training as part of the BLEA. In addition, the CJTC must ensure that each general authority Washington peace officer certified:

- before July 1, 2017, complete a minimum of eight hours of training by July 1, 2021. That training must be similar in hours and content as the training offered in the BLEA and each officer must obtain written proof showing completion of the program as provided by the CJTC's rules; and
- after July 1, 2017, complete a two-hour online crisis intervention course that is part of the CJTC's annual training required for full-time, general authority Washington peace officers.

The CJTC must make efforts to provide at least 25 percent of all general authority peace officers assigned to patrol duties with enhanced crisis intervention training which may be: (1) comprised

of 40 hours of commission-certified training; and (2) accomplished within any funds remaining after appropriation is made for purposes of this act.

By July 1, 2017, the CJTC must establish by rule:

1. A program and standards to certify other outside entities that may provide crisis intervention training. Those organizations must use a CJTC-certified training or curriculum to facilitate the training. The CJTC must: (1) consider geographic training needs when considering programs and standards; and (2) provide grants to law enforcement agencies to reimburse those agencies for the cost of sending officers to the crisis intervention training.
2. Standards for law enforcement officers' successful completion of the annual two hours of crisis intervention training that must include, at a minimum, the requirement of successful completion of a written exam.

"Crisis intervention training" means training designed to provide tools and resources to full-time, general authority Washington peace officers in order to respond effectively to individuals who may be experiencing an emotional, mental, physical, behavioral, or chemical dependency crisis, distress, or problem and that are designed to increase the safety of both law enforcement and individuals in crisis.

The availability of the crisis intervention training is subject to funding appropriated for this purpose.

The act may be known and cited as the Douglas M. Ostling Act.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Preliminary fiscal note available.

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