

**2SSB 5970** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Public Safety

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3

4 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
7 specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police  
8 chiefs shall develop and implement a mental health field response  
9 grant program. The purpose of the program is to assist local law  
10 enforcement agencies to establish and expand mental health field  
11 response capabilities, by utilizing mental health professionals to  
12 professionally, humanely, and safely respond to crises involving  
13 persons with behavioral health issues. The primary goals of mental  
14 health field response are treatment, diversion, and reduced  
15 incarceration time for those experiencing crisis. A portion of the  
16 grant funds may also be used to develop data management capability  
17 to support the program.

18 (2) (a) Grants must be awarded to local law enforcement agencies  
19 based on locally developed proposals to incorporate mental health  
20 professionals into the agencies' mental health field response  
21 planning and response. Two or more agencies may submit a joint grant  
22 proposal to develop their mental health field response proposals.  
23 Proposals must provide a plan for improving mental health field  
24 response and diversion from incarceration through modifying or  
25 expanding upon law enforcement practices in partnership with mental  
26 health professionals. A peer review panel appointed by the  
27 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs in consultation

1 with integrated managed care organizations and behavioral health  
2 organizations must review the grant applications.

3 (b) Once the Washington association of sheriffs and police  
4 chiefs certifies that the application satisfies the proposal  
5 criteria, the grant funds will be distributed. To the extent  
6 possible, at least one grant recipient agency should be from the  
7 east side of the state and one from the west side of the state with  
8 the crest of the Cascades being the dividing line. The Washington  
9 association of sheriffs and police chiefs may prioritize grant  
10 applications that include local matching funds.

11 (c) Grant recipients must be selected and receiving funds no  
12 later than October 1, 2018.

13 (3) Grant recipients must include at least one mental health  
14 professional who will perform professional services under the plan.  
15 A mental health professional may assist patrolling officers in the  
16 field or in an on-call capacity, provide preventative, follow-up,  
17 training on mental health field response best practices, or other  
18 services at the direction of the local law enforcement agency.  
19 Nothing in this subsection (3) limits the mental health  
20 professional's participation in field patrol. Grant recipients are  
21 encouraged to coordinate with local public safety answering points  
22 to maximize the goals of the program.

23 (4) Within existing resources, the Washington association of  
24 sheriffs and police chiefs shall:

25 (a) Consult with the department of social and health services  
26 research and data analysis unit to establish data collection and  
27 reporting guidelines for grant recipients. The data will be used to  
28 study and evaluate whether the use of mental health field response  
29 programs improve outcomes of interactions with persons experiencing  
30 behavioral health crises, including reducing rates of violence and  
31 harm, reduced arrests, and jail or emergency room usage;

32 (b) Consult with the department of social and health services  
33 behavioral health administration and the managed care system to  
34

1 develop requirements for participating mental health professionals;  
2 and

3 (c) Coordinate with public safety answering points, behavioral  
4 health organizations, and the department of social and health  
5 services to develop and incorporate telephone triage criteria and  
6 dispatch protocols to assist with mental health, law enforcement,  
7 and emergency medical responses involving mental health situations.

8 (5) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs  
9 shall submit an annual report to the governor and appropriate  
10 committees of the legislature on the program. The report must  
11 include information on grant recipients, use of funds, participation  
12 of mental health professionals, and feedback from the grant  
13 recipients by December 1st of each year the program is funded.

14 (6) Grant recipients shall develop and provide or arrange for  
15 training necessary for mental health professionals to operate  
16 successfully and competently in partnership with law enforcement  
17 agencies. The training must provide the professionals with a working  
18 knowledge of law enforcement procedures and tools sufficient to  
19 provide for the safety of the professionals, partnered law  
20 enforcement officers, and members of the public.

21 (7) Nothing in this section prohibits the Washington association  
22 of sheriffs and police chiefs from soliciting or accepting private  
23 funds to support the program in this section."  
24

25 Correct the title.  
26

EFFECT: Modifies the stated purpose of the grant program by specifying that the program is for assisting local law enforcement agencies with establishing and expanding mental health field response capabilities (rather than developing and operating those capabilities). Removes references to mental health field response teams, and instead refers to mental health field response capabilities or programs. Specifies that the primary goals of mental health field response are treatment, diversion, and reduced incarceration time. Requires grant proposals to include a plan for diversion from incarceration.

27 Authorizes the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police

Chiefs (WASPC) to prioritize grants for law enforcement agencies with local matching funds.

Requires grant recipients to include at least one mental health professional (rather than a designated crisis responder).

Encourages grant recipients to coordinate with local public safety answering points (PSAPs) to maximize the goals of the program. Requires WASPC to coordinate with PSAPs, behavioral health organizations, and the Department of Social and Health Services to develop and incorporate telephone triage criteria and dispatch protocols to assist with mental health, law enforcement, and emergency medical responses involving mental health situations.

Specifies that the bill does not prohibit WASPC from soliciting or accepting private funds to support the grant program.

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