

ESSB 5353 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Public Safety

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 04/09/2021

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that community
4 engagement is a foundational principle of successful community
5 policing practices. When individuals and neighborhood groups are
6 encouraged to partner with law enforcement, a powerful alliance can
7 be built on mutual trust and respect and mitigate polarization
8 between police departments and community groups. A successful
9 community-police partnership leads to the achievement of shared goals
10 of improving safety and quality of life and ensuring that public
11 safety services are tailored to the needs of local communities.

12 The legislature recognizes current efforts in Washington to
13 mobilize communities to insist on equitable and accountable practices
14 that will result in community participation in public safety efforts
15 as well as establish cooperative lines of communication between
16 civilians and law enforcement. Laudable community engagement models
17 such as the safe streets campaign in Pierce county, safe Yakima in
18 Yakima county, and the Okanogan county community coalition are
19 recognized to mitigate crime trends by engaging the community and law
20 enforcement in cooperative efforts to improve public safety.

21 The department of commerce intends to foster community engagement
22 with law enforcement officers through the creation of a community
23 engagement project in 15 communities across the state of Washington
24 with a mix of urban, rural, and suburban areas to facilitate
25 community-law enforcement partnerships and improve police-community
26 relations. The department will implement a project evaluation to
27 measure and examine the impact of local initiatives on community
28 engagement, neighborhood safety, and positive community-police
29 relations.

30 The funded projects will facilitate the empowerment of
31 communities to engage in crime prevention efforts through

1 neighborhood organizing, law enforcement-community partnerships,
2 youth mobilization, and business engagement.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
6 specific purpose, a project is created in the department to foster
7 community engagement through neighborhood organizing, law
8 enforcement-community partnerships, youth mobilization, and business
9 engagement. The department shall administer the project. The project
10 must include 12 to 15 grant awards in those counties that have
11 demonstrated their commitment to programs that promote community
12 engagement in public safety including the following counties:
13 Spokane, Pierce, King, Okanogan, Yakima, Cowlitz, Clark, Chelan-
14 Douglas, Walla-Walla, Benton-Franklin, Grant, and Snohomish.

15 (2) The department shall adopt policies and procedures necessary
16 to administer the project including: (a) An application process; (b)
17 disbursement of the grant award to selected applicants; (c) tracking
18 compliance and proper use of funds; and (d) measuring outcomes.

19 (3) Eligible applicants must:

20 (a) Be a public agency or nongovernmental organization;

21 (b) Have demonstrated experience with community engagement
22 initiatives that impact public safety;

23 (c) Have community engagement;

24 (d) Have established or be willing to establish a coordinated
25 effort with committed partners, which must include law enforcement
26 and organizations committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion of
27 community members, including organizations whose leadership
28 specifically reflects the communities most impacted by racism; and

29 (e) Have established priorities, policies, and measurable goals
30 in compliance with the requirements of the project as provided in
31 subsection (5) of this section.

32 (4) A law enforcement agency applying for a grant award shall not
33 be considered an eligible applicant unless there are no other
34 eligible applicants from the community or county the law enforcement
35 agency serves.

36 (5) The grant recipient shall:

37 (a) Lead and facilitate neighborhood organizing initiatives,
38 including:

1 (i) Empowering community members with tools, skills, confidence,
2 and connections to identify, eradicate, and prevent illegal activity;

3 (ii) Making neighborhood improvements to deter future criminal
4 activity; and

5 (iii) Educating community members regarding how to connect with
6 city, county, and law enforcement resources;

7 (b) Build substantive law enforcement-community partnerships,
8 including:

9 (i) Building trust between community members and law enforcement
10 by facilitating purposeful antiracist practices and the development
11 of policies that lead to equal treatment under the law;

12 (ii) Establishing clear expectations for law enforcement to be
13 competent to practice fair and equitable treatment including
14 facilitating dialogue between law enforcement and community members
15 to increase understanding of the impact of historical racist
16 practices and current conflicts;

17 (iii) Community members regularly informing law enforcement,
18 through presentations, workshops, or forums, on community perceptions
19 of law enforcement and public safety issues;

20 (iv) Educating community members on the role and function of law
21 enforcement in the community;

22 (v) Clarifying expectations of law enforcement and of the role of
23 the community in crime prevention;

24 (vi) Educating community members on the best practices for
25 reporting emergency and nonemergency activities;

26 (vii) Recognizing community members for effective engagement and
27 community leadership; and

28 (viii) Recognizing law enforcement officials for efforts to
29 engage underrepresented communities, improve community engagement and
30 empowerment, and reform law enforcement practices;

31 (c) Mobilize youth to partner with neighborhood groups and law
32 enforcement to prevent violence by:

33 (i) Helping them develop knowledge and skills to serve as leaders
34 in their communities;

35 (ii) Focusing on prevention of violence and substance abuse; and

36 (iii) Empowering youth to bring their voice to community issues
37 that impact healthy police-community relations;

38 (d) Engage businesses to help prevent crimes, such as vandalism
39 and burglaries, through safety training and other prevention
40 initiatives;

1 (e) Provide training and technical assistance on how to implement
2 community engagement, improving law enforcement and community
3 partnership, youth engagement, and business engagement;

4 (f) Identify and maintain consistent, experienced, and committed
5 leadership for managing the grant, including an administrator who
6 acts as an available point of contact with the department; and

7 (g) Collect and report data and information required by the
8 department.

9 (6) The department shall, in consultation with the Washington
10 state institute for public policy, develop reporting guidelines for
11 the grant recipient in order to measure whether the safe streets
12 pilot project had an impact on crime rates and community engagement
13 with, and perceptions of, law enforcement. The department shall
14 submit a preliminary report to the legislature with details on the
15 selected grant recipients and the reporting guidelines by January 1,
16 2022. The department shall submit a final report on the safe streets
17 pilot project, including an analysis of the reported data required
18 under this subsection, by December 1, 2023.

19 (7) This section expires January 1, 2024."

20 Correct the title.

--- END ---