
HOUSE BILL 2324

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Maycumber, Robertson, Couture, Chambers, Cheney, and Stokesbary

Read first time 01/12/24. Referred to Committee on Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry.

1 AN ACT Relating to narcotics enforcement; adding a new section to
2 chapter 43.43 RCW; repealing RCW 43.43.600, 43.43.610, 43.43.620,
3 43.43.630, 43.43.640, 43.43.650, and 43.43.655; and making
4 appropriations.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) There is created in the Washington state patrol a bureau of
9 narcotics enforcement which is authorized to:

10 (a) Create a new regionalized framework to oversee the
11 coordination of narcotic investigations between the Washington state
12 patrol, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the
13 attorney general, the federal bureau of investigation, and the
14 federal drug enforcement administration. The bureau shall coordinate
15 with the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs to
16 develop the regionalized framework and must ensure that each region
17 developed under this section contains no fewer than one county and no
18 more than three counties. The bureau shall also coordinate federal,
19 state, and local interjurisdictional narcotic investigations, with
20 special attention given to the following:

1 (i) Coordination and cooperation with federal, state, and local
2 law enforcement officials on mutual drug enforcement efforts and
3 enhancement of such efforts through exploitation of potential
4 intrastate, interstate, and international investigations beyond local
5 or state jurisdictions and resources; and

6 (ii) Coordination and cooperation with federal, state, and local
7 agencies, and with foreign governments, in programs designed to
8 reduce the availability of narcotic drugs on the state and national
9 market through nonenforcement methods;

10 (b) Conduct criminal narcotic investigations and assist in
11 preparation for the prosecution of violators of controlled substance
12 laws operating at intrastate, interstate, and international levels;

13 (c) Investigate and prepare for the criminal prosecution of drug
14 trafficking organizations who perpetrate violence in our communities
15 and terrorize citizens through fear and intimidation;

16 (d) Oversee the seizure and forfeiture of assets derived from,
17 traceable to, or intended to be used for illicit drug trafficking;
18 and

19 (e) Enforce the provisions of the controlled substances act,
20 federal and state, as they pertain to the manufacture, distribution,
21 and dispensing of controlled substances, with a priority focus on
22 opioid trafficking, particularly fentanyl.

23 (2) The bureau shall hire or contract for the appropriate law
24 enforcement and support personnel the bureau deems necessary to
25 perform the duties required under this section. In addition to the
26 requirements under subsection (1) of this section, the bureau shall:

27 (a) Where feasible, use existing facilities and systems; and

28 (b) When needed, contract for forensic lab and related criminal
29 investigation services and any other necessary personnel.

30 (3) The bureau shall submit a report to the governor and
31 appropriate committees of the legislature by October 1, 2024, on
32 progress towards compliance with creating the new bureau. The report
33 must also provide budget and policy recommendations for continued
34 support of the bureau.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of \$4,410,000, or as much thereof
36 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June
37 30, 2025, from the state general fund to the Washington state patrol
38 and is subject to the following conditions and limitations: The
39 amount in this section is provided solely for the Washington state

1 patrol to create, staff, and support the bureau of narcotics
2 enforcement. Of this amount:

3 (1) \$2,797,000 is provided solely for staffing and administrative
4 costs for the bureau of narcotics enforcement.

5 (2) \$737,000 is provided solely for the toxicology laboratory
6 division of the Washington state patrol to increase testing capacity.
7 Of this amount, \$88,000 is provided solely for the Washington state
8 patrol to contract with private accredited toxicology labs to
9 increase capacity for testing related to drug trafficking, including
10 specific testing related to novel and emerging drugs or compounds
11 that the Washington state patrol does not have current technologies
12 to confirm.

13 (3) \$876,000 is provided solely for the crime laboratory division
14 of the Washington state patrol to increase testing capacity.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of \$10,000,000, or as much thereof
16 as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June
17 30, 2025, from the state general fund to the department of commerce
18 and is subject to the following conditions and limitations: The
19 amount in this section is provided solely for the department of
20 commerce to provide grant funding to local multijurisdictional task
21 forces that previously received funding through the federal Edward
22 Byrne memorial justice assistance grant program. Grants provided
23 under this subsection must support narcotics enforcement and must be
24 used consistent with the requirements of Edward Byrne memorial
25 justice assistance grants and with national best practices for law
26 enforcement.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The following acts or parts of acts are
28 each repealed:

29 (1) RCW 43.43.600 (Drug control assistance unit—Created) and 1970
30 ex.s. c 63 s 1;

31 (2) RCW 43.43.610 (Drug control assistance unit—Duties) and 1983
32 c 3 s 107, 1980 c 69 s 1, & 1970 ex.s. c 63 s 2;

33 (3) RCW 43.43.620 (Drug control assistance unit—Additional duties
34 —Information system on violations—Inter-unit communications network)
35 and 1970 ex.s. c 63 s 3;

36 (4) RCW 43.43.630 (Drug control assistance unit—Use of existing
37 facilities and systems) and 1970 ex.s. c 63 s 4;

1 (5) RCW 43.43.640 (Drug control assistance unit—Certain
2 investigators exempt from state civil service act) and 1980 c 69 s 3
3 & 1970 ex.s. c 63 s 5;

4 (6) RCW 43.43.650 (Drug control assistance unit—Employment of
5 necessary personnel) and 1970 ex.s. c 63 s 6; and

6 (7) RCW 43.43.655 (Drug control assistance unit—Special narcotics
7 enforcement unit) and 1989 c 271 s 235.

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