
SENATE BILL 6272

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Mullet and Wagoner

Read first time 01/18/24. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to dedicating the state share of cannabis excise
2 tax revenue to counties and cities for the purpose of attracting and
3 retaining commissioned law enforcement officers; and amending RCW
4 69.50.540.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 69.50.540 and 2023 c 470 s 1015 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) For the purposes of this subsection (1), the legislature must
9 appropriate the amounts provided in this subsection:

10 (a) \$12,500,000 annually to the board for administration of this
11 chapter as appropriated in the omnibus appropriations act;

12 (b) \$11,000,000 annually to the department of health for the
13 following:

14 (i) Creation, implementation, operation, and management of a
15 cannabis, vapor product, and commercial tobacco education and public
16 health program that contains the following:

17 (A) A cannabis use public health hotline that provides referrals
18 to substance abuse treatment providers, uses evidence-based or
19 research-based public health approaches to minimizing the harms
20 associated with cannabis use, and does not solely advocate an
21 abstinence-only approach;

1 (B) Programs that support development and implementation of
2 coordinated intervention strategies for the prevention and reduction
3 of commercial tobacco, vapor product, and cannabis use by youth and
4 cannabis cessation treatment services, including grant programs to
5 local health departments or other local community agencies;

6 (C) Media-based education campaigns across television, internet,
7 radio, print, and out-of-home advertising, separately targeting youth
8 and adults, that provide medically and scientifically accurate
9 information about the health and safety risks posed by cannabis use;
10 and

11 (D) Outreach to priority populations regarding commercial
12 tobacco, vapor product, and cannabis use, prevention, and cessation;
13 and

14 (ii) The Washington poison control center;

15 (c) (i) \$3,000,000 annually to the department of commerce to fund
16 cannabis social equity grants under RCW 43.330.540; and

17 (ii) \$200,000 annually to the department of commerce to fund
18 technical assistance through a roster of mentors under RCW
19 43.330.540;

20 (d) \$200,000 annually, until June 30, 2032, to the health care
21 authority to contract with the Washington state institute for public
22 policy to conduct the cost-benefit evaluations and produce the
23 reports described in RCW 69.50.550;

24 (e) \$25,000 annually to the University of Washington alcohol and
25 drug abuse institute for the creation, maintenance, and timely
26 updating of web-based public education materials providing medically
27 and scientifically accurate information about the health and safety
28 risks posed by cannabis use;

29 (f) \$300,000 annually to the University of Washington and
30 \$175,000 annually to the Washington State University for research on
31 the short-term and long-term effects of cannabis use to include, but
32 not be limited to, formal and informal methods for estimating and
33 measuring intoxication and impairments, and for the dissemination of
34 such research;

35 (g) \$550,000 annually to the office of the superintendent of
36 public instruction to fund grants to building bridges programs under
37 chapter 28A.175 RCW;

38 (h) \$2,423,000 for fiscal year 2022 and \$2,423,000 for fiscal
39 year 2023 to the Washington state patrol for a drug enforcement task
40 force;

1 (i) \$270,000 for fiscal year 2022 and \$290,000 for fiscal year
2 2023 to the department of ecology for implementation of accreditation
3 of cannabis product testing laboratories;

4 (j) \$800,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2023 to the
5 department of health for the administration of the cannabis
6 authorization database; and

7 (k) \$621,000 for fiscal year 2022 and \$635,000 for fiscal year
8 2023 to the department of agriculture for compliance-based laboratory
9 analysis of pesticides in cannabis.

10 (2) (~~Subsections~~ [~~Subsection~~]) Subsection (1)(a) through (g) of
11 this section must be adjusted annually based on the United States
12 bureau of labor statistics' consumer price index for the Seattle
13 area.

14 (3) After appropriation of the amounts identified in subsection
15 (1) of this section, the legislature must annually appropriate such
16 remaining amounts for the purposes listed in this subsection (3) as
17 follows:

18 (a) (~~Fifty-two~~) 52 percent to the state basic health plan trust
19 account to be administered by the Washington basic health plan
20 administrator and used as provided under chapter 70.47 RCW;

21 (b) (~~Eleven~~) 11 percent to the health care authority to:

22 (i) Design and administer the Washington state healthy youth
23 survey, analyze the collected data, and produce reports, in
24 collaboration with the office of the superintendent of public
25 instruction, department of health, department of commerce, family
26 policy council, and board. The survey must be conducted at least
27 every two years and include questions regarding, but not necessarily
28 limited to, academic achievement, age at time of substance use
29 initiation, antisocial behavior of friends, attitudes toward
30 antisocial behavior, attitudes toward substance use, laws and
31 community norms regarding antisocial behavior, family conflict,
32 family management, parental attitudes toward substance use, peer
33 rewarding of antisocial behavior, perceived risk of substance use,
34 and rebelliousness. Funds disbursed under this subsection may be used
35 to expand administration of the healthy youth survey to student
36 populations attending institutions of higher education in Washington;

37 (ii) Develop, implement, maintain, and evaluate programs and
38 practices aimed at the prevention or reduction of maladaptive
39 substance use, substance use disorder, substance abuse or substance
40 dependence, as these terms are defined in the diagnostic and

1 statistical manual of mental disorders, among middle school and high
2 school-age students, whether as an explicit goal of a given program
3 or practice or as a consistently corresponding effect of its
4 implementation, mental health services for children and youth, and
5 services for pregnant and parenting women. In deciding which programs
6 and practices to fund under this subsection (3)(b)(ii), the director
7 of the health care authority must consult, at least annually, with
8 the University of Washington's social development research group and
9 the University of Washington's alcohol and drug abuse institute; and

10 (iii) Contract with community health centers to provide primary
11 health and dental care services, migrant health services, and
12 maternity health care services as provided under RCW 41.05.220; and

13 (c)(i) One and one-half percent to counties, cities, and towns
14 where licensed cannabis retailers are physically located. Each
15 jurisdiction must receive a share of the revenue distribution under
16 this subsection (3)(c)(i) based on the proportional share of the
17 total revenues generated in the individual jurisdiction from the
18 taxes collected under RCW 69.50.535, from licensed cannabis retailers
19 physically located in each jurisdiction. For purposes of this
20 subsection (3)(c), 100 percent of the proportional amount attributed
21 to a retailer physically located in a city or town must be
22 distributed to the city or town;

23 (ii) Three and one-half percent to counties, cities, and towns
24 ratably on a per capita basis. Counties must receive 60 percent of
25 the distribution based on each county's total proportional
26 population. Funds may only be distributed to jurisdictions that do
27 not prohibit the siting of any state licensed cannabis producer,
28 processor, or retailer;

29 (iii) 32 percent to counties, cities, and towns, ratably on a per
30 capita basis. The county must receive that proportion that the
31 unincorporated population of the county bears to the total population
32 of the county and each city must receive that proportion that the
33 city incorporated population bears to the total county population.
34 Funds received under this subsection (c)(iii) may be used as follows:

35 (A) At least 50 percent of funds must be used solely for
36 attracting and retaining additional commissioned law enforcement
37 officers; and

38 (B) Any remaining amount may be used for criminal justice
39 purposes. For the purposes of this subsection (c)(iii)(B), "criminal
40 justice purposes" means activities that substantially assist the

1 criminal justice system, which may include circumstances where
2 ancillary benefit to the civil justice system occurs, and which
3 includes domestic violence services such as those provided by
4 domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates,
5 as defined in RCW 70.123.020;

6 (iv) By September 15th of each year, the board must provide the
7 state treasurer the annual distribution amount made under this
8 subsection (3)(c), if any, for each county and city as determined in
9 (c)(i) ~~((and (ii)))~~ through (iii) of this subsection; and

10 ~~((iv))~~ (v) Distribution amounts allocated to each county, city,
11 and town in (c)(i) ~~((and (ii)))~~ through (iii) of this subsection must
12 be distributed in four installments by the last day of each fiscal
13 quarter ~~(; and~~

14 ~~(d) Thirty-two percent must be deposited in the state general~~
15 ~~fund).~~

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