HOUSE BILL 1250

State of Washington   **69th Legislature**   **2025 Regular Session**

By Representatives Barnard, Goodman, and Davis

Prefiled 01/10/25. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1   AN ACT Relating to facilitating law enforcement and corrections
2 agency accreditation; adding a new section to chapter 36.28A RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 10.93 RCW; creating a new section;
4 and providing an expiration date.

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

6   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.**   (1) The legislature finds that law
7 enforcement and corrections agency accreditation improves the public
8 service of public safety and is beneficial to both law enforcement
9 and corrections officers, and the communities they serve.
10 Accreditation assists agencies to operate under industry best
11 practices and standards, which leads to improvements in officer
12 morale, retention and recruitment, and a reduction in negative
13 interactions between law enforcement and citizens. According to the
14 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, only about 25
15 percent of law enforcement agencies, and even fewer corrections
16 agencies, are accredited. The legislature intends to facilitate
17 accreditation by more law enforcement and corrections agencies.
18   (2) The legislature also finds that the criminal justice training
19 commission has recognized certain state and national law enforcement
20 accrediting entities, and the Washington association of sheriffs and
21 police chiefs is the only Washington entity recognized by the

1   commission for law enforcement accreditation. The association also
2   accredits corrections agencies.

3   (3) For the 2023-2025 biennium, the criminal justice training
4   commission has the authority to provide incentive awards totaling up
5   to $50,000 to each law enforcement agency that receives an
6   accreditation during the fiscal biennium from a national or state
7   accrediting entity recognized by the commission. The legislature
8   further finds that law enforcement agencies benefit from the ability
9   to easily share data and information to improve officer training,
10 supervision, and wellness. The legislature therefore intends to
11 provide funding to the Washington association of sheriffs and police
12 chiefs, in consultation with the experts and stakeholders it deems
13 appropriate, to identify barriers and improvements to law enforcement
14 and corrections agencies receiving accreditation, and gaps that exist
15 between agency policies and operations with established law
16 enforcement and corrections best practices. As resources are
17 provided, the legislature encourages the association to assist law
18 enforcement and corrections agencies with physical infrastructure
19 improvements, policy development, and training that is needed to
20 comply with accreditation requirements and other law enforcement and
21 corrections best practices.

22   (4) The legislature further finds that law enforcement
23 accreditation incentive awards provided through the criminal justice
24 training commission has resulted in more law enforcement agencies
25 receiving accreditation. The legislature therefore also intends to
26 continue funding accreditation incentive awards in the 2025-2027
27 operating budget as an ongoing appropriation and expand accreditation
28 incentive awards to include corrections agencies that receive an
29 accreditation by a national or state accrediting entity recognized by
30 the criminal justice training commission.

31   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A
32 RCW to read as follows:
33   (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
34 specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police
35 chiefs, in consultation with experts and stakeholders it deems
36 appropriate, shall:
37   (a) Evaluate the existing criteria and process for a law
38 enforcement or corrections agency to obtain accreditation from a law
39 enforcement or corrections accreditation entity recognized by the

1 criminal justice training commission to identify areas where
2 accreditation may be enhanced;
3 (b) Review law enforcement and corrections best practices
4 relating to officer early warning sign procedures, leading indicators
5 data focused on proactive and preventive measures, bystander and de-
6 escalation training, officer wellness, and supervisory review
7 processes;
8 (c) Identify and evaluate barriers that prevent law enforcement
9 and corrections agencies from obtaining accreditation from a law
10 enforcement or corrections accreditation entity recognized by the
11 criminal justice training commission, and the types of near-term and
12 long-term incentives that could be implemented to encourage and
13 increase law enforcement and corrections agency accreditation;
14 (d) Identify mechanisms, in addition to those already existing,
15 for agencies to share best practices, data, and information with one
16 another relating to officer training, supervision, and wellness; and
17 (e) Identify funding needed to implement its recommendations.
18 (2) The association shall report its findings and
19 recommendations, including model policies, if any, to the appropriate
20 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2026.
21 (3) This section expires December 31, 2026.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 10.93
23 RCW to read as follows:
24 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
25 specific purpose, the criminal justice training commission may
26 provide an accreditation incentive award to each law enforcement
27 agency and corrections agency that receives an accreditation during
28 the fiscal biennium from a national or state accrediting entity
29 recognized by the commission. A law enforcement or corrections agency
30 may not receive more than one accreditation incentive award per
31 fiscal biennium. Funds received by a law enforcement or corrections
32 agency under this section must be made available to the agency to
33 which they are awarded and may not supplant or replace existing
34 funding received by the agency.

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