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**HOUSE BILL 1435**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Abell, Richards, Corry, Schmidt, Klicker, Paul, Low, Connors, Rude, Caldier, Mendoza, Jacobsen, Davis, Ley, Barkis, Springer, Schmick, Nance, Bernbaum, Manjarrez, Engell, Dufault, and Pollet

Read first time 01/21/25. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a law enforcement hiring grant  
2 program; adding a new section to chapter 43.101 RCW; and making an  
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.101  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
8 specific purpose, the commission shall develop and implement a law  
9 enforcement hiring grant program for the purpose of providing direct  
10 support to local and tribal law enforcement agencies in hiring law  
11 enforcement officers to increase community policing and public  
12 safety.

13 (2) Grants provide up to 75 percent of the entry-level salaries  
14 and fringe benefits of full-time local or tribal law enforcement  
15 officers for a maximum of 36 months, with a minimum 25 percent local  
16 cash match requirement and a maximum state share of \$125,000 per law  
17 enforcement officer position. Any additional costs for salaries and  
18 benefits higher than entry level are the responsibility of the grant  
19 recipient agency. The grants cannot be used for any costs other than  
20 salaries and benefits. These grants are intended for the purpose of  
21 increasing the number of filled local and tribal law enforcement

1 officer positions in Washington state. Grants shall not be awarded  
2 for any local or tribal law enforcement position if the applicant is,  
3 or has been within the previous 12 calendar months, employed by a  
4 local or tribal law enforcement agency in Washington state.

5 (3) Grants must be awarded to local and tribal law enforcement  
6 agencies based on local and tribal law enforcement agency submittals  
7 to the commission. Under this section the commission shall:

8 (a) Establish policies for applications;

9 (b) Establish and publish on the commission website the  
10 application requirements;

11 (c) Establish and publish on the commission website the criteria  
12 for evaluating and selecting grant recipients;

13 (d) Create a grant application form that local and tribal law  
14 enforcement agencies must use to apply for grant funding; and

15 (e) Require reports from grant recipients that must include at  
16 least how the funding impacted retention rates and improved vacancy  
17 rates, and the estimated time the applying agency took from  
18 recruitment to hiring in the last closed fiscal year.

19 (4) Effective July 31, 2025, and annually thereafter on July  
20 31st, the commission must report to the appropriate committees of the  
21 legislature on:

22 (a) The total count of law enforcement grant applications  
23 received by the commission by fiscal year;

24 (b) The total count of law enforcement officer positions applied  
25 for by fiscal year;

26 (c) The total count of grant funding requested by fiscal year;

27 (d) The name of each law enforcement entity that applied for the  
28 grant, how many officers they requested funding for, and how much  
29 state funding they requested by fiscal year; and

30 (e) The count of grants awarded, to include the name of each law  
31 enforcement entity that was an award recipient for the grant, how  
32 many officers they received funding for, and how much state funding  
33 they were awarded by fiscal year.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of \$100,000,000, or as much  
35 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
36 ending June 30, 2026, from the general fund to the criminal justice  
37 training commission for the purposes of this act.

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