
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1736

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Community Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Lekanoff, Springer, Ormsby, Parshley, Hill, Nance, Pollet, and Ramel)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to procedures and requirements for reporting and
2 investigating missing persons; amending RCW 68.50.320; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.43 RCW; and repealing RCW 36.28A.110,
4 36.28A.112, and 36.28A.120.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 68.50.320 and 2022 c 251 s 5 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 When a person reported missing has not been found within thirty
9 days of the report, or at any time the investigating agency suspects
10 criminal activity to be the basis of the victim being missing, the
11 sheriff, chief of police, county coroner or county medical examiner,
12 or other law enforcement authority initiating and conducting the
13 investigation for the missing person shall: (1) File a missing
14 person's report with the Washington state patrol missing and
15 unidentified persons unit; (2) initiate the collection of DNA samples
16 from the known missing person and their family members for nuclear
17 and mitochondrial DNA testing along with the necessary consent forms;
18 ~~and (3) ((ask the missing person's family or next of kin to give~~
19 ~~written consent to contact the dentist or dentists of the missing~~
20 ~~person and request the person's dental records; and (4))~~ enter the
21 case into the national crime information center system through the

1 Washington state patrol electronic database. Upon knowledge from the
2 national crime information center system, the Washington state
3 patrol's crime information center, or similar or subsequent
4 authority, that a person in custody at a jail, or being released from
5 custody, is the subject of a missing person's report, the jail shall
6 notify the agency of original jurisdiction for the missing person's
7 report.

8 The Washington state patrol missing and unidentified persons unit
9 shall ask the missing person's family or next of kin to give written
10 consent to contact the dentist or dentists of the missing person and
11 request the person's dental records.

12 The missing person's dentist or dentists shall provide diagnostic
13 quality copies of the missing person's dental records or original
14 dental records to the ~~((sheriff, chief of police, county coroner or~~
15 ~~county medical examiner, or other law enforcement authority,))~~
16 Washington state patrol missing and unidentified persons unit when
17 presented with the written consent from the missing person's family
18 or next of kin or with a statement from the sheriff, chief of police,
19 county coroner or county medical examiner, or other law enforcement
20 authority that the missing person's family or next of kin could not
21 be located in the exercise of due diligence ~~((or that))~~, the missing
22 person's family or next of kin refuse to consent to the release of
23 the missing person's dental records ~~((and there is reason to believe~~
24 ~~that the missing person's family or next of kin may have been~~
25 ~~involved in the missing person's disappearance))~~, or the missing
26 person's family or next of kin is not able to sign a release due to
27 circumstances that limit access and ability to obtain a signature.

28 As soon as possible after collecting the DNA samples, the
29 sheriff, chief of police, or other law enforcement authority shall
30 submit the DNA samples to the appropriate laboratory. ~~((Dental~~
31 ~~records shall be submitted as soon as possible to the Washington~~
32 ~~state patrol missing and unidentified persons unit.))~~

33 The descriptive information from missing person's reports and
34 dental data submitted to the Washington state patrol missing and
35 unidentified persons unit shall be recorded and maintained by the
36 Washington state patrol missing and unidentified persons unit in the
37 applicable dedicated missing person's databases.

38 When a person reported missing has been found, the sheriff, chief
39 of police, coroner or medical examiner, or other law enforcement

1 authority shall report such information to the Washington state
2 patrol.

3 The dental identification system shall maintain a file of
4 information regarding persons reported to it as missing. The file
5 shall contain the information referred to in this section and such
6 other information as the Washington state patrol finds relevant to
7 assist in the location of a missing person.

8 The files of the dental identification system shall, upon
9 request, be made available to law enforcement agencies attempting to
10 locate missing persons.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) The Washington state patrol missing and unidentified persons
14 unit shall establish and maintain a statewide missing persons
15 website, which shall be available to the public. The Washington state
16 patrol missing and unidentified persons unit shall post relevant
17 information to the website concerning persons reported missing in the
18 state of Washington. For missing persons, the website must contain,
19 but is not limited to: The person's name, physical description,
20 photograph, and other information that is deemed necessary according
21 to the adopted protocols. The website must allow citizens to more
22 broadly disseminate information regarding missing persons for at
23 least 30 days.

24 (2) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
25 purpose, the Washington state patrol missing and unidentified persons
26 unit shall regularly transmit information contained on its missing
27 persons website to the national missing and unidentified persons
28 system.

29 (3) The Washington state patrol missing and unidentified persons
30 unit shall establish an interface with local law enforcement agencies
31 and its missing persons website, the toll-free 24-hour hotline, and
32 national and other statewide missing persons systems or
33 clearinghouses.

34 (4) Local law enforcement agencies shall file an official missing
35 person's report and enter biographical information into the state
36 missing persons computerized network without delay after notification
37 of a missing person's report is received under this chapter.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The following acts or parts of acts are
2 each repealed:
3 (1) RCW 36.28A.110 (Missing persons information website creation)
4 and 2007 c 10 s 3 & 2006 c 102 s 4;
5 (2) RCW 36.28A.112 (Missing persons information website—
6 Transmittal of information to the national missing and unidentified
7 persons system) and 2020 c 45 s 4; and
8 (3) RCW 36.28A.120 (State patrol involvement with missing persons
9 systems—Local law enforcement procedures for missing persons
10 information) and 2007 c 10 s 4 & 2006 c 102 s 5.

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