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**HOUSE BILL 1896**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Abell, Richards, Engell, Schmidt, Klicker, and Jacobsen

Read first time 02/07/25. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing local law enforcement officers by  
2 authorizing a local sales and use tax credited against the state  
3 portion to hire additional officers and increasing the number of  
4 basic law enforcement courses offered by the criminal justice  
5 training commission; reenacting and amending RCW 43.101.200; adding a  
6 new section to chapter 82.14 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds the people of  
9 Washington have more reason to fear for their safety, with the  
10 incidence of violent crimes such as murder, rape, and aggravated  
11 assault reaching 25-year highs in the past few years, while the rate  
12 of property crime has ranked second highest in the nation over the  
13 past five years. The legislature also finds Washington ranks last in  
14 the nation for law enforcement officers per capita.

15 (2) The legislature finds the counties and cities of Washington  
16 should be served by a number of law enforcement officers at least  
17 equal to the national average per capita, and that law enforcement  
18 agencies should be encouraged to invest in innovative crime reduction  
19 efforts when possible. To avoid placing more burden on local  
20 governments and to promote equitable and consistent enforcement of  
21 laws among jurisdictions, it is therefore the intent of the

1 legislature to provide a source of funding to support additional  
2 local investments in law enforcement and public safety, with the goal  
3 of reducing violent and property crime.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.14  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) (a) A county or city legislative authority may impose a sales  
7 and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The rate of  
8 tax under this section is 0.10 percent of the selling price, in the  
9 case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a  
10 use tax.

11 (b) For a city imposing the sales and use tax under this section,  
12 if the county in which the city is located also imposes the tax, the  
13 city sales and use tax must be credited against the county tax.

14 (2) The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any  
15 other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those  
16 persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12  
17 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The  
18 tax authorized under this section is a credit against the state tax  
19 under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department must perform the  
20 collection of such taxes on behalf of the county or city at no cost  
21 to the county or city and must remit the tax to the jurisdiction as  
22 provided in RCW 82.14.060.

23 (3) (a) Subject to (b) of this subsection, all money received  
24 under this section must be used solely for employing additional  
25 commissioned law enforcement officers.

26 (b) If the local commissioned rate per 1,000 population is  
27 greater than the national commissioned rate per 1,000 population, the  
28 city or county may use money received under this section in the  
29 current calendar year for criminal justice purposes. To determine the  
30 local and national commissioned rate per 1,000 population, law  
31 enforcement employment data and jurisdictional population data  
32 provided to the federal uniform crime program, as of October of the  
33 prior calendar year, must be used.

34 (4) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions  
35 apply.

36 (a) "Criminal justice purposes" means activities that  
37 substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include  
38 circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice system  
39 occurs, and which includes domestic violence services such as those

1 provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and  
2 legal advocates, as defined in RCW 70.123.020. After May 13, 2021,  
3 through December 31, 2026, criminal justice purposes includes local  
4 government programs that have a reasonable relationship to reducing  
5 the number of people interacting with the criminal justice system  
6 including, but not limited to, reducing homelessness and improving  
7 behavioral health.

8 (b) "Local commissioned rate per 1,000 population" means the  
9 total full-time commissioned law enforcement officers of the city or  
10 county, divided by the population, and multiplied by 1,000.

11 (c) "National commissioned rate per 1,000 population" means the  
12 total full-time commissioned law enforcement officers for all  
13 agencies, divided by the total agency population, and multiplied by  
14 1,000.

15 (d) "Uniform crime program" means the federal law enforcement  
16 reporting and statistics program operated by the criminal justice  
17 information services division of the federal bureau of investigation.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.101.200 and 2024 c 376 s 908 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, all law  
21 enforcement personnel, except volunteers, and reserve officers  
22 whether paid or unpaid, initially employed on or after January 1,  
23 1978, shall engage in basic law enforcement training which complies  
24 with standards adopted by the commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.080.  
25 For personnel initially employed before January 1, 1990, such  
26 training shall be successfully completed during the first (~~fifteen~~)  
27 15 months of employment of such personnel unless otherwise extended  
28 or waived by the commission and shall be requisite to the  
29 continuation of such employment. Personnel initially employed on or  
30 after January 1, 1990, shall commence basic training during the first  
31 six months of employment unless the basic training requirement is  
32 otherwise waived or extended by the commission. Successful completion  
33 of basic training is requisite to the continuation of employment of  
34 such personnel initially employed on or after January 1, 1990.

35 (2)(a) All law enforcement personnel who are limited authority  
36 Washington peace officers and whose employment commences on or after  
37 July 1, 2023, shall commence basic training during the first 12  
38 months of employment unless the basic training requirement is  
39 otherwise waived or extended by the commission. Successful completion

1 of basic training is requisite to the continuation of employment of  
2 such personnel initially employed on or after July 1, 2023.

3 (b) (i) The commission shall review the training files of all law  
4 enforcement personnel who are limited authority Washington peace  
5 officers, whose employment commenced prior to July 1, 2023, and who  
6 have not successfully completed training that complies with standards  
7 adopted by the commission, to determine what, if any, supplemental  
8 training is required to appropriately carry out the officers' duties  
9 and responsibilities.

10 (ii) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to require law  
11 enforcement personnel who are limited authority Washington peace  
12 officers, whose employment commenced prior to July 1, 2023, to  
13 complete the basic law enforcement training academy as a condition of  
14 continuing employment as a limited authority Washington peace  
15 officer.

16 (iii) Law enforcement personnel who are limited authority  
17 Washington peace officers are not required to complete the basic law  
18 enforcement academy or an equivalent basic academy upon transferring  
19 to a general authority Washington law enforcement agency or limited  
20 authority Washington law enforcement agency, as defined in RCW  
21 10.93.020, if they have:

22 (A) Been employed as a special agent with the Washington state  
23 gambling commission, been a natural resource investigator with the  
24 department of natural resources, been a liquor enforcement officer  
25 with the liquor and cannabis board, been an investigator with the  
26 office of the insurance commissioner, or been a park ranger with the  
27 Washington state parks and recreation commission, before or after  
28 July 1, 2023; and

29 (B) Received a certificate of successful completion from the  
30 basic law enforcement academy or the basic law enforcement  
31 equivalency academy and thereafter engaged in regular and  
32 commissioned law enforcement employment with an agency listed in  
33 (b) (iii) (A) of this subsection without a break or interruption in  
34 excess of 24 months; and

35 (C) Remained current with the in-service training requirements as  
36 adopted by the commission by rule.

37 (3) Except as provided in RCW 43.101.170, the commission shall  
38 provide the aforementioned training and shall have the sole authority  
39 to do so. The commission shall provide necessary facilities,  
40 supplies, materials, and the board and room of noncommuting attendees

1 for seven days per week, except during the 2017-2019, 2019-2021, and  
2 2021-2023 fiscal biennia, and during fiscal year 2024, when the  
3 employing, county, city, or state law enforcement agency shall  
4 reimburse the commission for (~~twenty-five~~) 25 percent of the cost  
5 of training its personnel. Additionally, to the extent funds are  
6 provided for this purpose, the commission shall reimburse to  
7 participating law enforcement agencies with (~~ten~~) 10 or less full-  
8 time commissioned patrol officers the cost of temporary replacement  
9 of each officer who is enrolled in basic law enforcement training:  
10 PROVIDED, That such reimbursement shall include only the actual cost  
11 of temporary replacement not to exceed the total amount of salary and  
12 benefits received by the replaced officer during his or her training  
13 period:

14 PROVIDED FURTHER, That limited authority Washington law  
15 enforcement agencies as defined in RCW 10.93.020 shall reimburse the  
16 commission for the full cost of training their personnel.

17 (4) Beginning with fiscal year 2026, the commission must provide  
18 at least 27 basic law enforcement training classes. Beginning with  
19 fiscal year 2027, the commission must provide at least 28 basic law  
20 enforcement training classes each fiscal year. The legislature must  
21 appropriate sufficient funding to the commission for this purpose.

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