
**Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry
Committee**

SB 6181

Brief Description: Concerning law enforcement officer definition.

Sponsors: Senator Lias.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Aligns the definitions of reserve officer and specially commissioned Washington peace officer in the Washington Mutual Aid Peace Officer Powers Act and the state law governing the Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Hearing Date: 2/14/24

Staff: Lena Langer (786-7192).

Background:

Mutual Aid Peace Officers Powers Act.

The Mutual Aid Peace Officers Powers Act (Act) authorizes law enforcement agencies to contract with each other to provide mutual assistance without regard to normal territorial limitations.

The Act defines "specially commissioned Washington peace officer" as any officer, whether part-time or full-time, compensated or not, commissioned by a general authority Washington law enforcement agency to enforce some or all of the state's criminal laws, who does not qualify as a general authority Washington peace officer for that commissioning agency, specifically including reserve peace officers, and specially commissioned full-time, fully compensated peace officers duly commissioned by the states of Oregon or Idaho or any such peace officer

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commissioned by a unit of local government of Oregon or Idaho.

The Act defines "reserve peace officer" as an individual who is an officer of a Washington law enforcement agency who does not serve such agency on a full-time basis but who, when called by the agency into active service, is fully commissioned on the same basis as full-time peace officers to enforce the criminal laws of the state.

Criminal Justice Training Commission.

The Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) establishes the certification standards and process for peace officers and other law enforcement personnel. The CJTC also provides training and educational programs, including hosting the Basic Law Enforcement Academy and the Corrections Officer Academy, as well as advanced training.

The state law governing the CJTC defines "reserve officer" as any person who does not serve as a peace officer on a full-time basis, but who, when called by an agency into active service, is fully commissioned on the same basis as full-time officers to enforce the criminal laws of this state, including:

- specially commissioned Washington peace officers;
- persons employed as security by public institutions of higher education; and
- persons employed for the purpose of providing security in the K-12 public school system and who are authorized to use force in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Summary of Bill:

The definition of "reserve officer" in the Act is changed to any person who does not serve as a peace officer on a full-time basis, but who, when called by an agency into active service, is fully commissioned on the same basis as full-time officers to enforce the criminal laws of this state.

The definition of "reserve officer" in the state law governing the CJTC is replaced with a reference to the definition in the Act.

A definition of "specially commissioned Washington peace officer" in the state law governing the CJTC is added, providing that the specially commissioned Washington peace officer has the same meaning as in the Act, and includes:

- persons employed as security by public institutions of higher education; and
- persons employed for the purpose of providing security in the K-12 public school system and who are authorized to use force in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.