
HOUSE BILL 2560

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Maycumber, Lovick, Klippert, Chapman, Lekanoff, Corry, Walsh, Van Werven, Chambers, Kloba, Dent, Griffey, Barkis, Graham, Goehner, and Blake

1 AN ACT Relating to basic law enforcement training; amending RCW
2 43.101.200; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington is
5 experiencing a shortage of qualified law enforcement officers. Recent
6 research suggests that Washington has the lowest ratio of law
7 enforcement officers to residents compared to any other state in the
8 nation. Recruitment and hiring of new officers has become
9 increasingly challenging, due in part to excessive delays in
10 accessing the state's basic law enforcement academy. After an agency
11 hires a new officer, he or she waits many months for an opening at
12 the academy. Even though a new hire cannot be deployed in the field,
13 agencies must pay his or her salary to prevent him or her from
14 seeking employment elsewhere. Law enforcement agencies struggle with
15 shouldering the costs of these wait times, while also attempting to
16 compete with one another for qualified candidates.

17 The criminal justice training commission, which has the
18 responsibility of hosting the basic law enforcement academy, requests
19 funding from the state for sufficient academy classes year after
20 year, with mixed success. The number of funded classes varies in each
21 biennial budget. To date, there remains a significant waiting period

1 for new hires to join a class. As a result, law enforcement agencies
2 are losing qualified candidates to other agencies, other states, and
3 often to other professions.

4 The legislature hereby establishes a statutory minimum number of
5 required basic law enforcement academy classes. This is intended to
6 reduce waiting times and increase predictability for agencies across
7 the state. Nothing in this act is intended to prevent the commission
8 from requesting additional classes above the minimum, and the
9 commission should request such additional classes when forecasts in
10 hiring indicate a need to do so.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.101.200 and 2019 c 415 s 969 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) All law enforcement personnel, except volunteers, and reserve
14 officers whether paid or unpaid, initially employed on or after
15 January 1, 1978, shall engage in basic law enforcement training which
16 complies with standards adopted by the commission pursuant to RCW
17 43.101.080. For personnel initially employed before January 1, 1990,
18 such training shall be successfully completed during the first
19 fifteen months of employment of such personnel unless otherwise
20 extended or waived by the commission and shall be requisite to the
21 continuation of such employment. Personnel initially employed on or
22 after January 1, 1990, shall commence basic training during the first
23 six months of employment unless the basic training requirement is
24 otherwise waived or extended by the commission. Successful completion
25 of basic training is requisite to the continuation of employment of
26 such personnel initially employed on or after January 1, 1990.

27 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the commission
28 shall provide the aforementioned training together with necessary
29 facilities, supplies, materials, and the board and room of
30 noncommuting attendees for seven days per week, except during the
31 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 fiscal biennia when the employing, county,
32 city, or state law enforcement agency shall reimburse the commission
33 for twenty-five percent of the cost of training its personnel.
34 Additionally, to the extent funds are provided for this purpose, the
35 commission shall reimburse to participating law enforcement agencies
36 with ten or less full-time commissioned patrol officers the cost of
37 temporary replacement of each officer who is enrolled in basic law
38 enforcement training: PROVIDED, That such reimbursement shall include
39 only the actual cost of temporary replacement not to exceed the total

1 amount of salary and benefits received by the replaced officer during
2 his or her training period.

3 (3) Beginning July 1, 2021, the commission shall provide at least
4 fifteen basic law enforcement academy trainings per fiscal year.
5 Beginning July 1, 2024, the commission shall provide at least
6 nineteen basic law enforcement academy trainings per fiscal year.
7 However, if enrollment is insufficient to fill the trainings required
8 by this subsection, the commission may reduce the number of trainings
9 to satisfy enrollment needs. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the
10 commission from requesting funding for or otherwise providing
11 additional trainings beyond those required in this subsection.

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