
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2908

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Ryu, Ortiz-Self, Walkinshaw, Stanford, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the joint legislative task force
2 on community policing standards for a safer Washington; creating new
3 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the invaluable
6 contributions of law enforcement officers, who risk their own lives
7 every day to protect our families and communities. We hold law
8 enforcement to a high standard in their positions of public trust and
9 as the guardians in our communities, and the legislature applauds
10 their efforts to show respect and compassion to all citizens while
11 holding individuals accountable for their criminal activity.

12 The legislature acknowledges that officers are often placed in
13 harm's way and must make decisions quickly while under extreme
14 stress. Although regrettable in every case, the use of deadly force
15 may sometimes be necessary to protect the safety of others. The
16 legislature also recognizes that both the people of this state and
17 law enforcement officers themselves rely on and expect
18 accountability, the failure of which damages the public trust in
19 those who serve the public honorably and with compassion.

20 It is the intent of the legislature to improve our law in a
21 manner that provides clear guidance to law enforcement, respects and

1 supports the role of law enforcement to maintain public safety, and
2 fosters accountability and public trust.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A joint legislative task force on the
4 use of deadly force in community policing is established.

5 (2) The task force is composed of members as provided in this
6 subsection.

7 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from
8 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

9 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one
10 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
11 representatives.

12 (c) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
13 representatives jointly shall appoint:

14 (i) Members representing the following:

15 (A) Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;

16 (B) Washington state patrol;

17 (C) Washington council of police and sheriffs;

18 (D) Criminal justice training commission;

19 (E) Washington association of prosecuting attorneys;

20 (F) Washington association of criminal defense lawyers, public
21 defender association, or the Washington defender association;

22 (G) Washington state association of counties;

23 (H) Association of Washington cities;

24 (I) National association for the advancement of colored people or
25 its designee;

26 (J) Northwest immigration rights project;

27 (K) Black alliance of Thurston county;

28 (L) Disability rights Washington;

29 (M) Latino civic alliance;

30 (N) COMPAS (council of metropolitan police and sheriffs);

31 (O) Washington state fraternal order of police;

32 (P) One other association, community organization, advocacy
33 group, or faith-based organization with experience or interest in
34 community policing; and

35 (Q) One other association representing law enforcement officers
36 who represent traditionally underrepresented communities; and

37 (ii) A member representing a liberty organization.

38 (d) The governor shall appoint four members representing the
39 following:

- 1 (i) Washington state commission on Hispanic affairs;
2 (ii) Washington state commission on Asian Pacific American
3 affairs;
4 (iii) Washington state commission on African-American affairs;
5 and
6 (iv) Governor's office of Indian affairs.

7 (3) The task force shall:

8 (a) Review laws, practices, and training programs regarding the
9 use of deadly force in Washington state and other states;

10 (b) Review current policies, practices, and tools used by or
11 otherwise available to law enforcement as an alternative to lethal
12 uses of force, including tasers and other nonlethal weapons; and

13 (c) Recommend best practices to reduce the number of violent
14 interactions between law enforcement officers and members of the
15 public.

16 (4) The task force may review literature and reports on the use
17 of deadly force, and may consult with persons, organizations, and
18 entities with interest or experience in community policing including,
19 but not limited to, law enforcement, local governments, professional
20 associations, community organizations, advocacy groups, and faith-
21 based organizations.

22 (5) The legislative membership shall convene the initial meeting
23 of the task force no later than July 1, 2016. The task force shall
24 convene at least four meetings in 2016. The task force shall choose
25 its cochairs from among its legislative membership, which must
26 include one representative from the house of representatives and one
27 senator from the senate.

28 (6) The task force shall submit a report, which may include
29 findings and recommendations, to the governor and the appropriate
30 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2016. A minority report
31 must be submitted along with the task force's report if requested by
32 any member of the task force.

33 (7) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the
34 senate committee services and the house office of program research.

35 (8) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
36 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
37 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
38 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
39 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
40 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

1 (9) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the
2 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
3 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
4 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor
5 committees.

6 (10) This section expires December 31, 2016.

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