
SENATE BILL 5650

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Conway, Darneille, Zeiger, and O'Ban

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the safe streets pilot project;
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; creating a new section;
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that community
6 engagement is a foundational principle of successful community
7 policing. When individuals are encouraged to partner with law
8 enforcement, a powerful alliance can be built on mutual trust and
9 respect to achieve their shared goals of improving safety and quality
10 of life, identifying priorities in need of law enforcement resources,
11 and further ensuring that services are tailored to the needs of local
12 communities.

13 The legislature recognizes current efforts in Washington to
14 mobilize communities to insist on accountable and engaged public
15 safety and to establish cooperative lines of communication between
16 civilians and law enforcement, including the laudable efforts of the
17 safe streets campaign in Pierce county to reverse crime trends by
18 engaging the community and law enforcement in cooperative efforts to
19 improve public safety.

20 The legislature intends to foster efforts to promote community
21 engagement through the creation of the safe streets pilot project.

1 The safe streets pilot project will facilitate the empowerment of
2 communities to engage in crime prevention efforts through neighborhood
3 organizing, law enforcement-community partnerships, neighborhood
4 watch programs, youth mobilization, and business engagement. The
5 legislature intends to use the safe streets pilot project to measure
6 and examine the impact of safe streets initiatives on community
7 engagement, criminal activity, and improved community-police
8 relationships, and evaluate whether the safe streets initiative is a
9 model for other communities to improve public safety.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
13 specific purpose, the safe streets pilot project is created in the
14 department for the purpose of fostering community engagement through
15 neighborhood organizing, law enforcement-community partnerships,
16 neighborhood watch programs, youth mobilization, and business
17 engagement. The department shall administer the pilot project. The
18 pilot project must include one grant award to an eligible applicant,
19 which must be selected and receiving grant funds by November 1, 2017.
20 The department shall adopt policies and procedures necessary to
21 administer the pilot project, including for the: (a) Application
22 process; (b) disbursement of the grant award to the selected
23 applicant; (c) tracking compliance and proper use of funds; and (d)
24 measuring outcomes.

25 (2) An eligible applicant:

26 (a) Is a public agency or nongovernmental organization, and is
27 not a law enforcement agency;

28 (b) Is located in a charter county located west of the crest of
29 the Cascade mountains with a population between seven hundred
30 thousand and one million that also contains a city with a population
31 of more than one hundred seventy-five thousand;

32 (c) Has prior experience with safe streets initiatives or police-
33 community engagement;

34 (d) Has established or is willing to establish a coordinated
35 effort with committed partners, which must include law enforcement;
36 and

37 (e) Has established priorities, policies, and measurable goals in
38 compliance with the requirements of subsection (3) of this section.

39 (3) The grant recipient shall:

1 (a) Lead and facilitate neighborhood organizing initiatives,
2 including: (i) Empowering community members with tools, skills,
3 confidence, and connections to identify, eradicate, and prevent
4 illegal activity; (ii) making neighborhood improvements to deter
5 future criminal activity; and (iii) educating community members
6 regarding how to connect with city, county, and law enforcement
7 resources;

8 (b) Build substantive law enforcement-community partnerships,
9 including: (i) Building trust between law enforcement and residents
10 by facilitating purposeful interactions and providing opportunities
11 to clarify misunderstandings; (ii) establishing ongoing communication
12 with law enforcement through a clearly defined process; (iii)
13 facilitating dialogue between law enforcement and residents to
14 resolve historical and current conflicts; (iv) informing law
15 enforcement, through presentations, workshops, or forums, on
16 community perceptions of law enforcement and public safety issues;
17 (v) educating residents on the role and function of law enforcement
18 in the community; (vi) clarifying expectations of law enforcement and
19 of the role of the community in crime prevention; (vii) educating
20 residents on the best practices for reporting emergency and
21 nonemergency activities; (viii) recognizing residents for effective
22 engagement and community leadership; and (ix) recognizing law
23 enforcement officials for efforts to engage underrepresented
24 communities, improve community engagement and empowerment, and reform
25 law enforcement practices;

26 (c) Educate residents on and, when appropriate, foster
27 neighborhood watch programs aimed at providing timely and detailed
28 information to law enforcement so they can respond quickly, and
29 creating positive connections among neighbors and law enforcement
30 through community engagement;

31 (d) Mobilize youth in the community, especially high school and
32 middle school age youth, by: (i) Helping them develop knowledge and
33 skills to serve as leaders in their communities; (ii) focusing on
34 prevention of violence and substance abuse; and (iii) empowering
35 youth to directly affect change through bringing youth voices to the
36 table;

37 (e) Engage businesses to help prevent crimes, such as vandalism
38 and burglaries, through safety training and other prevention
39 initiatives;

1 (f) Identify and maintain consistent, experienced, and committed
2 leadership for managing the grant, including an administrator who
3 acts as an available point of contact with the department; and

4 (g) Collect and report data and information required by the
5 department.

6 (4) The department shall, in consultation with the Washington
7 state institute for public policy, develop reporting guidelines for
8 the grant recipient in order to measure whether the safe streets
9 pilot project had an impact on crime rates and community engagement
10 with, and perceptions of, law enforcement. The department shall
11 submit a preliminary report to the legislature with details on the
12 selected grant recipient and the reporting guidelines by January 1,
13 2018. The department shall submit a final report on the safe streets
14 pilot project, including an analysis of the reported data required
15 under this subsection, by December 1, 2019.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2020.

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