

EFFECT:

- Amends the title
- Permits law enforcement agency grant recipients to use grant funds to hire peer counselors, and behavior health personnel working in co-response;
- Eliminates the requirement that grant funding cannot be used for any costs other than salaries and benefits;
- Requires successful grant applicants to maintain:
 - Written and published policies consistent with RCW 43.17.425 (immigration and citizenship status – State agency restrictions.), RCW 10.93.160 (Immigration and citizenship status – Law enforcement agency restrictions, and the Office of the Attorney General’s Keep Washington Working Act Guidance, Model Policies, and Training Recommendations for State and Local law Enforcement Agencies;
 - Written and published policies and training on use of force approved by the Criminal Justice Training Commission;
 - Written and published policies and practices related to laws addressing firearm relinquishment pursuant to court orders and domestic violence 911 response requirements;
 - 80 percent officer compliance rate the Criminal Justice Training Commissions’ 40-hour crisis intervention team training; and
 - 100 percent officer compliance rate with trauma informed training approved by the Criminal Justice Training Commission;
- Permits the commission to provide an advance on grant funding to law enforcement agencies that do not meet the policy and training requirements, but who otherwise qualify for grant funding, for the purposes of the agency coming into compliance with the policy and training requirements;
- Extends the due date of the commissions first report to the Legislature from July 31, 2025, to July 31, 2026;
- Requires WASPC to complete a report on law enforcement personnel employed as general authority Washington peace officers over time for each local law enforcement agency in Washington state; and
- Provides an expiration date related to the WASPC study section set 6 months after the due date of the report.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the number of law enforcement
2 agency personnel; adding a new section to chapter 43.101 RCW; adding
3 a new section to chapter 36.28A RCW; making an appropriation; and
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.101
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
9 specific purpose, the commission shall develop and implement a law
10 enforcement hiring grant program for the purpose of providing direct
11 support to local and tribal law enforcement agencies in hiring law
12 enforcement officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health
13 personnel working in co-response to increase community policing and
14 public safety.

15 (2) Grants provide up to 75 percent of the entry-level salaries
16 and fringe benefits of full-time local or tribal law enforcement
17 officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in
18 co-response for a maximum of 36 months, with a minimum 25 percent
19 local cash match requirement and a maximum state share of \$125,000
20 per position. Any additional costs for salaries and benefits higher
21 than entry level are the responsibility of the grant recipient

1 agency. These grants are intended for the purpose of increasing the
2 number of filled local and tribal law enforcement officer positions,
3 peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-
4 response in Washington state. Grants shall not be awarded for any
5 local or tribal law enforcement position if the applicant is, or has
6 been within the previous 12 calendar months, employed by a local or
7 tribal law enforcement agency in Washington state.

8 (3) Grants must be awarded to local and tribal law enforcement
9 agencies based on local and tribal law enforcement agency submittals
10 to the commission. In order to qualify for a grant pursuant to this
11 section a law enforcement agency must maintain:

12 (a) Written and published policies consistent with RCW 43.17.425,
13 10.93.160, and the office of the attorney general's keep Washington
14 working act guidance, model policies, and training recommendations
15 for state and local law enforcement agencies;

16 (b) Written and published policies and training on use of force
17 approved by the criminal justice training commission;

18 (c) Written and published policies and practices related to laws
19 addressing firearm relinquishment pursuant to court orders and
20 domestic violence 911 response requirements;

21 (d) 80 percent officer compliance rate with the criminal justice
22 training commission's 40-hour crisis intervention team training; and

23 (e) 100 percent officer compliance rate with trauma-informed
24 training approved by the criminal justice training commission.

25 (4) The commission may provide an advance on grant funding to a
26 law enforcement agency that does not qualify under subsection (3) of
27 this section, but who otherwise meets the grant application criteria
28 established by the commission, for the purposes of the agency coming
29 into compliance with subsection (3) of this section.

30 (5) Under this section the commission shall:

31 (a) Establish policies for applications;

32 (b) Establish and publish on the commission website the
33 application requirements;

34 (c) Establish and publish on the commission website the criteria
35 for evaluating and selecting grant recipients;

36 (d) Create a grant application form that local and tribal law
37 enforcement agencies must use to apply for grant funding; and

38 (e) Require reports from grant recipients that must include at
39 least how the funding impacted retention rates and improved vacancy

1 rates, and the estimated time the applying agency took from
2 recruitment to hiring in the last closed fiscal year.

3 (6) Effective July 31, 2026, and annually thereafter on July
4 31st, the commission must report to the appropriate committees of the
5 legislature on:

6 (a) The total count of law enforcement grant applications
7 received by the commission by fiscal year;

8 (b) The total count of law enforcement officer positions applied
9 for by fiscal year;

10 (c) The total count of grant funding requested by fiscal year;

11 (d) The name of each law enforcement entity that applied for the
12 grant, how many officers they requested funding for, and how much
13 state funding they requested by fiscal year; and

14 (e) The count of grants awarded, to include the name of each law
15 enforcement entity that was an award recipient for the grant, how
16 many officers they received funding for, and how much state funding
17 they were awarded by fiscal year.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs
21 shall complete a report on law enforcement personnel employed as
22 general authority Washington peace officers, as defined in RCW
23 10.93.020, over time for each local law enforcement agency in
24 Washington state. The report must include data points for each local
25 law enforcement agency on July 1, 2020, July 1, 2021, July 1, 2022,
26 July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025, on the:

27 (a) Count of general authority Washington peace officer
28 positions;

29 (b) Count of filled general authority Washington peace officer
30 positions;

31 (c) Count of vacant general authority Washington peace officer
32 positions; and

33 (d) Count of retirements of general authority Washington peace
34 officer positions over the past 12 calendar months.

35 (2) Using data from subsection (1) of this section, the report
36 must also include a table to show the above data and in turn the
37 vacancy rates and turnover rates for each local law enforcement
38 agency, as well as a compiled statewide view of vacancy and turnover

1 rates for general authority Washington peace officer positions year
2 over year.

3 (3) The report is due to the governor and fiscal committees of
4 the legislature by January 1, 2026.

5 (4) This section expires July 1, 2026.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of \$100,000,000, or as much
7 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
8 ending June 30, 2026, from the general fund to the criminal justice
9 training commission for the purposes of this act.

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