
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5987

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Clements, Carrell, Marr, Holmquist, Schoesler and Rasmussen; by request of Attorney General)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to gang-related offenses; and creating new
2 sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the people of
5 Washington state face a crisis brought upon by increased gang crime and
6 violence, which is threatening public safety in communities across the
7 state. Those who live in communities where gang membership is on the
8 rise find themselves living with the daily threat of intimidation and
9 harassment. Ordinary citizens are increasingly vulnerable to
10 gang-related crimes such as drug dealing, damage to real property,
11 theft of personal property and automobiles, or even assault, rape, and
12 murder. Even those not directly affected by gang-related crime, share
13 in the indirect costs such as lower property values, higher insurance
14 premiums, and the endangerment of our youth. Moreover, our first
15 responders find themselves increasingly vulnerable to personal injury
16 or death when responding to gang-related crimes such as drug dealing,
17 assault, driving without a license, or attempting to elude a police
18 vehicle.

1 It is the intent of the legislature to establish a work group to
2 evaluate and make legislative recommendations regarding the problem of
3 gang-related crime in Washington state.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of the attorney general is
5 directed to establish a work group to evaluate the problem of
6 gang-related crime in Washington state. Members shall include one
7 member from each of the two largest caucuses in the house of
8 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
9 representatives, one member from each of the two largest caucuses in
10 the senate, appointed by the president of the senate, representatives
11 of local law enforcement, prosecutors and municipal attorneys, criminal
12 defense attorneys, court administrators, prison or detention
13 administrators and probation officers, and experts in gang or
14 delinquency prevention including the governor's juvenile justice
15 advisory committee. The work group shall evaluate and make
16 recommendations regarding additional legislative measures to combat
17 gang-related crime, the creation of a statewide gang information
18 database, possible reforms to the juvenile justice system for
19 gang-related juvenile offenses, best practices for prevention and
20 intervention of youth gang membership, and the adoption of legislation
21 authorizing a civil antigang injunction. The office of the attorney
22 general shall report back to the legislature on its findings and the
23 recommendations of the work group or groups on or before January 1,
24 2008.

--- END ---