

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5131

As Passed Senate, March 5, 2009

Title: An act relating to crisis referral services for criminal justice and correctional personnel.

Brief Description: Concerning crisis referral services for criminal justice and correctional personnel.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Delvin, Hargrove, Brandland and Regala; by request of Lieutenant Governor).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services & Corrections: 1/27/09, 2/20/09 [DPS].

Passed Senate: 3/05/09, 45-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5131 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Chair; Regala, Vice Chair; Stevens, Ranking Minority Member; Brandland, Carrell, Kauffman and McAuliffe.

Staff: Kevin Black (786-7747)

Background: The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) is a state organization which establishes standards for education and training and provides education and training to law enforcement personnel.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The CJTC must offer training to public safety personnel on personal crisis recognition and crisis intervention services. The training must be a minimum of one hour classroom or internet instruction. The training must include techniques for recognizing underlying causes of personal crises, such as mental health issues, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and financial problems. The CJTC must list examples of public and private crisis referral agencies available to law enforcement personnel and describe the services which are available.

All communications between public safety employees and crisis referral services must be confidential.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: We want to help law enforcement officers come forward when they have serious issues created by the stress of their job. Confidentiality will help them come forward without fear of stigma or retribution. Intervention early can be critical to achieving long term success, and saving careers and money in the process.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Delvin, prime sponsor; Brad Owen, Lieutenant Governor; Sean Riley, Save Call Now; Steve Rittreiser, Chief of Police, University of Washington; Eric Olsen, Chief of Police, Kirkland Police Department.