
SENATE BILL 5047

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Benton and Zarelli

Read first time 01/13/97. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to arming community corrections officers; adding a
2 new section to chapter 72.02 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring
3 an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 72.02 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Community corrections officers may carry firearms during the
8 course of their official field duties. The department is not
9 responsible for providing or paying for firearms, materials, equipment,
10 or training associated with implementation of this policy. A community
11 corrections officer who chooses to be armed under this section shall,
12 at his or her own expense, arrange for and complete any necessary
13 training. In addition, a community corrections officer who chooses to
14 be armed under this section shall, at his or her own expense, provide
15 his or her own firearm as well as any associated materials and
16 equipment needed by the officer in order to carry a firearm.

17 (2) Nothing in this section makes community corrections officers
18 eligible for membership in the law enforcement officers' and
19 firefighters' retirement system under chapter 41.26 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By December 1, 1997, the criminal
2 justice training commission shall set the following standards and
3 requirements for implementing section 1 of this act:

4 The commission shall determine the types of firearms that community
5 corrections officers are permitted to carry and the permissible types
6 of ammunition. The commission shall also set standards determining
7 what constitutes necessary training. In so doing, the commission shall
8 specify the nature of training that community corrections officers must
9 complete or the level of competency community corrections officers must
10 demonstrate, or both, in order to carry firearms under section 1 of
11 this act. This may include periodic refresher training courses or
12 competency reviews.

13 (2)(a) Before determining the standards and requirements in
14 subsection (1) of this section, and no later than May 1, 1997, the
15 criminal justice training commission shall convene an advisory board to
16 make recommendations for developing these standards and requirements.
17 The advisory board must have the following members:

18 (i) Two individuals designated by the commission who have been
19 certified and approved by the commission to provide firearms
20 instruction;

21 (ii) Two community corrections officers who are designated by the
22 exclusive bargaining unit representing community corrections officers;
23 and

24 (iii) One representative from the department of corrections
25 designated by the secretary of the department of corrections.

26 (b) The advisory board shall deliver its recommendations to the
27 criminal justice training commission no later than September 1, 1997.

28 (3) The department of corrections shall implement the policy
29 contained in section 1 of this act allowing community corrections
30 officers to carry firearms no later than January 1, 1998, but not
31 before the criminal justice training commission has determined
32 standards and requirements under this section.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
35 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
36 immediately.

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