

HB 2892 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 03/02/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
6 specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police  
7 chiefs shall develop and implement a mental health field response  
8 grant program. The purpose of the program is to assist local law  
9 enforcement agencies to establish and expand mental health field  
10 response capabilities, utilizing mental health professionals to  
11 professionally, humanely, and safely respond to crises involving  
12 persons with behavioral health issues with treatment, diversion, and  
13 reduced incarceration time as primary goals. A portion of the grant  
14 funds may also be used to develop data management capability to  
15 support the program.

16 (2) Grants must be awarded to local law enforcement agencies  
17 based on locally developed proposals to incorporate mental health  
18 professionals into the agencies' mental health field response  
19 planning and response. Two or more agencies may submit a joint grant  
20 proposal to develop their mental health field response proposals.  
21 Proposals must provide a plan for improving mental health field  
22 response and diversion from incarceration through modifying or  
23 expanding law enforcement practices in partnership with mental health  
24 professionals. A peer review panel appointed by the Washington  
25 association of sheriffs and police chiefs in consultation with  
26 integrated managed care organizations and behavioral health  
27 organizations must review the grant applications. Once the Washington  
28 association of sheriffs and police chiefs certifies that the  
29 application satisfies the proposal criteria, the grant funds will be  
30 distributed. To the extent possible, at least one grant recipient  
31 agency should be from the east side of the state and one from the  
32 west side of the state with the crest of the Cascades being the

1 dividing line. The Washington association of sheriffs and police  
2 chiefs shall make every effort to fund at least eight grants per  
3 fiscal year with funding provided for this purpose from all allowable  
4 sources under this section. The Washington association of sheriffs  
5 and police chiefs may prioritize grant applications that include  
6 local matching funds. Grant recipients must be selected and receiving  
7 funds no later than October 1, 2018.

8 (3) Grant recipients must include at least one mental health  
9 professional who will perform professional services under the plan. A  
10 mental health professional may assist patrolling officers in the  
11 field or in an on-call capacity, provide preventive, follow-up,  
12 training on mental health field response best practices, or other  
13 services at the direction of the local law enforcement agency.  
14 Nothing in this subsection (3) limits the mental health  
15 professional's participation to field patrol. Grant recipients are  
16 encouraged to coordinate with local public safety answering points to  
17 maximize the goals of the program.

18 (4) Within existing resources, the Washington association of  
19 sheriffs and police chiefs shall:

20 (a) Consult with the department of social and health services  
21 research and data analysis unit to establish data collection and  
22 reporting guidelines for grant recipients. The data will be used to  
23 study and evaluate whether the use of mental health field response  
24 programs improves outcomes of interactions with persons experiencing  
25 behavioral health crises, including reducing rates of violence and  
26 harm, reduced arrests, and jail or emergency room usage;

27 (b) Consult with the department of social and health services  
28 behavioral health administration and the managed care system to  
29 develop requirements for participating mental health professionals;  
30 and

31 (c) Coordinate with public safety answering points, behavioral  
32 health, and the department of social and health services to develop  
33 and incorporate telephone triage criteria or dispatch protocols to  
34 assist with mental health, law enforcement, and emergency medical  
35 responses involving mental health situations.

36 (5) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs  
37 shall submit an annual report to the governor and appropriate  
38 committees of the legislature on the program. The report must include  
39 information on grant recipients, use of funds, participation of

1 mental health professionals, and feedback from the grant recipients  
2 by December 1st of each year the program is funded.

3 (6) Grant recipients shall develop and provide or arrange for  
4 training necessary for mental health professionals to operate  
5 successfully and competently in partnership with law enforcement  
6 agencies. The training must provide the professionals with a working  
7 knowledge of law enforcement procedures and tools sufficient to  
8 provide for the safety of the professionals, partnered law  
9 enforcement officers, and members of the public.

10 (7) Nothing in this section prohibits the Washington association  
11 of sheriffs and police chiefs from soliciting or accepting private  
12 funds to support the program created in this section."

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13 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the  
14 remainder of the title and insert "and adding a new section to  
15 chapter 36.28A RCW."

EFFECT: Removes WSIPP study requirement and replaces it with  
coordination with the research and data analysis unit to develop data  
collection and reporting requirements.

Adds additional program goals of treatment, diversion from jail,  
and reduced incarceration time.

Directs WASPC to coordinate with the 911 system and others to  
develop and incorporate telephone triage and dispatch protocols in  
the program.

Permits WASPC to solicit and accept private funds for the  
program.

Requires the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs  
to make every effort to fund 8 grants with the funding provided to  
them from all sources for this purpose.

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