
HOUSE BILL 2537

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Maycumber, Klippert, Chambers, Dent, Griffey, Barkis, Graham, Walsh, Mosbrucker, Blake, and Volz

Read first time 01/15/20. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the law enforcement training
2 standards and education board for the purpose of improving the basic
3 law enforcement education academy and other programs and curriculum
4 hosted or designed by the criminal justice training commission;
5 amending RCW 43.101.080; and adding new sections to chapter 43.101
6 RCW.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The law enforcement training standards
9 and education board is established within the commission for the
10 purpose of providing standards for the training and education of law
11 enforcement personnel.

12 (2) The board consists of eleven members appointed by the
13 governor. The membership must include:

14 (a) A police chief from a police department of a city having a
15 population equal to or greater than one hundred twenty-five thousand;

16 (b) A police chief from a police department of a city having a
17 population less than one hundred twenty-five thousand;

18 (c) An elected sheriff from a county having a population equal to
19 or in excess of two hundred fifty thousand;

20 (d) An elected sheriff from a county having a population less
21 than two hundred fifty thousand;

1 (e) A certified and employed peace officer with experience in law
2 enforcement training who is a member of the Washington association of
3 sheriffs and police chiefs, selected from a list of at least two
4 candidates provided by the association;

5 (f) A certified peace officer with experience in law enforcement
6 training who is employed with a police department or county sheriff
7 and a member of the Washington council of police and sheriffs,
8 selected from a list of at least two candidates provided by the
9 council;

10 (g) A certified peace officer with experience in law enforcement
11 training who is employed with a municipal police department or county
12 sheriff and a member of the council of metropolitan police and
13 sheriffs, selected from a list of at least two candidates provided by
14 the council;

15 (h) A certified peace officer with experience in law enforcement
16 training who is employed with a municipal police department or county
17 sheriff and a member of the Washington state fraternal order of
18 police, selected from a list of at least two candidates provided by
19 the order;

20 (i) A certified peace officer currently working as a trainer at
21 the commission;

22 (j) A representative of a four-year college or university; and

23 (k) A representative of community and technical colleges.

24 (3) Members must be appointed for terms of six years. Terms
25 commence July 1st, and expire June 30th. However, of the members
26 first appointed, three must serve for terms of two years, four must
27 serve for terms of four years, and four must serve for terms of six
28 years. A member selected to fill a vacancy created before an
29 applicable term expires must be appointed for the unexpired term of
30 the member he or she is to succeed. A member may be reappointed for
31 additional terms.

32 (4) A member appointed as an incumbent official or because of his
33 or her employment ceases to be a member of the board immediately upon
34 the termination of his or her holding of the office or employment.

35 (5) Members serve without compensation, but are entitled to be
36 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and
37 43.03.060.

38 (6) The commission shall summon the board to its first meeting.
39 The board shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its members.

1 The board shall meet at least four times during each calendar year. A
2 simple majority constitutes a quorum.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The law enforcement training standards and
4 education board established in section 1 of this act is empowered to:

- 5 (1) Meet at such times and places as necessary;
- 6 (2) Adopt policies and procedures and, where necessary, rules and
7 regulations, as to the conduct of its business;
- 8 (3) Cooperate with and secure the cooperation of any department,
9 agency, or instrumentality in state, county, or city government, and
10 commissions affected by or concerned with the business of the
11 commission;
- 12 (4) Conduct any and all things necessary or convenient to enable
13 them fully and adequately to perform their duties and to exercise the
14 power granted to them; and
- 15 (5) Create and consult with advisory groups comprising
16 nonmembers. Advisory groups are not eligible for reimbursement under
17 RCW 43.380.060.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The law enforcement training standards and
19 education board established in section 1 of this act shall:

- 20 (1) Review, on a regular basis, the commission's training and
21 education programs for law enforcement personnel, including the
22 curriculum for the basic law enforcement academy, the equivalency
23 academy, and advanced training programs for certified peace officers.
24 The review must include, among other appropriate items, an evaluation
25 of the practices of in-service law enforcement personnel and
26 application of training techniques;
- 27 (2) Assess, on a regular basis, whether the training and
28 education programs provided by the commission meet national best
29 practices established by the commission on accreditation for law
30 enforcement agencies and other appropriate organizations;
- 31 (3) Recommend, when appropriate and necessary, modifications to
32 the curriculum for training and education programs for law
33 enforcement personnel to comply with national best practices and meet
34 the needs of local law enforcement agencies;
- 35 (4) Establish minimum standards for the commission with respect
36 to conducting training and education programs for law enforcement
37 personnel;

1 (5) Recommend to the commission appropriate alternative,
2 innovative, and interdisciplinary training and education techniques
3 for law enforcement personnel;

4 (6) Recommend to the commission minimum standards relating to
5 physical, mental, and moral fitness governing the recruitment and
6 certification of law enforcement personnel; and

7 (7) Report to the commission on at least an annual basis.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The law enforcement training standards and
9 education board established in section 1 of this act shall submit a
10 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature and the
11 governor by December 1st of each year, which must include:

12 (1) An evaluation of the training and education programs for law
13 enforcement personnel offered through the commission;

14 (2) An assessment of whether such programs comply with national
15 best practices and meet the needs of local law enforcement agencies;

16 (3) A summary of recommendations to the commission; and

17 (4) Recommendations, where necessary, for state policy changes to
18 improve training and education programs for law enforcement
19 personnel.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The commission shall implement
21 recommendations of the board for modifications to training and
22 education programs for law enforcement personnel within an
23 appropriate and reasonable time, unless such modifications conflict
24 with federal or state law, or are otherwise not in compliance with
25 national best practices.

26 (2) The commission shall respond to requests of the board for
27 information, and provide such assistance as is necessary for the
28 board to comply with its duties. The commission shall report to the
29 board, upon request, with status updates as to the implementation of
30 the board's recommendation or other updates as may be required by the
31 board.

32 (3) The commission shall report to the appropriate committees of
33 the legislature and the governor by December 1st of each year with a
34 status update as to its compliance with the board's recommendations,
35 including an explanation for possible lack of compliance.

36 (4) For the purposes of this section, "board" refers to the law
37 enforcement training standards and education board established in
38 section 1 of this act.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.101.080 and 2018 c 32 s 4 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The commission shall have all of the following powers:

4 (1) To meet at such times and places as it may deem proper;

5 (2) To adopt any rules and regulations as it may deem necessary;

6 (3) To contract for services as it deems necessary in order to
7 carry out its duties and responsibilities;

8 (4) To cooperate with and secure the cooperation of any
9 department, agency, or instrumentality in state, county, and city
10 government, and other commissions affected by or concerned with the
11 business of the commission;

12 (5) To do any and all things necessary or convenient to enable it
13 fully and adequately to perform its duties and to exercise the power
14 granted to it;

15 (6) To select and employ an executive director, and to empower
16 him or her to perform such duties and responsibilities as it may deem
17 necessary;

18 (7) To assume legal, fiscal, and program responsibility for all
19 training conducted by the commission;

20 (8) To establish, by rule and regulation, standards for the
21 training of criminal justice personnel where such standards are not
22 prescribed by statute;

23 (9) To own, establish, and operate, or to contract with other
24 qualified institutions or organizations for the operation of,
25 training and education programs for criminal justice personnel and to
26 purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire, subject to the approval of the
27 department of enterprise services, a training facility or facilities
28 necessary to the conducting of such programs;

29 (10) To establish, by rule and regulation, minimum curriculum
30 standards for all training programs conducted for employed criminal
31 justice personnel;

32 (11) To review and approve or reject standards for instructors of
33 training programs for criminal justice personnel, and to employ
34 personnel on a temporary basis as instructors without any loss of
35 employee benefits to those instructors;

36 (12) To direct the development of alternative, innovative, and
37 interdisciplinary training techniques;

38 (13) To review and approve or reject training programs conducted
39 for criminal justice personnel and rules establishing and prescribing
40 minimum training and education standards recommended by the training

1 standards and education boards, except as otherwise required by
2 section 5 of this act;

3 (14) To allocate financial resources among training and education
4 programs conducted by the commission;

5 (15) To allocate training facility space among training and
6 education programs conducted by the commission;

7 (16) To issue diplomas certifying satisfactory completion of any
8 training or education program conducted or approved by the commission
9 to any person so completing such a program;

10 (17) To provide for the employment of such personnel as may be
11 practical to serve as temporary replacements for any person engaged
12 in a basic training program as defined by the commission;

13 (18) To establish rules and regulations recommended by the
14 training standards and education boards prescribing minimum standards
15 relating to physical, mental and moral fitness which shall govern the
16 recruitment of criminal justice personnel where such standards are
17 not prescribed by statute or constitutional provision;

18 (19) To require county, city, or state law enforcement agencies
19 that make a conditional offer of employment to an applicant as a
20 fully commissioned peace officer or a reserve officer to administer a
21 background investigation including a check of criminal history,
22 verification of immigrant or citizenship status as either a citizen
23 of the United States of America or a lawful permanent resident, a
24 psychological examination, and a polygraph test or similar assessment
25 to each applicant, the results of which shall be used by the employer
26 to determine the applicant's suitability for employment as a fully
27 commissioned peace officer or a reserve officer. The background
28 investigation, psychological examination, and the polygraph
29 examination shall be administered in accordance with the requirements
30 of RCW 43.101.095(2). The employing county, city, or state law
31 enforcement agency may require that each peace officer or reserve
32 officer who is required to take a psychological examination and a
33 polygraph or similar test pay a portion of the testing fee based on
34 the actual cost of the test or four hundred dollars, whichever is
35 less. County, city, and state law enforcement agencies may establish
36 a payment plan if they determine that the peace officer or reserve
37 officer does not readily have the means to pay for his or her portion
38 of the testing fee;

39 (20) To promote positive relationships between law enforcement
40 and the citizens of the state of Washington by allowing commissioners

1 and staff to participate in the "chief for a day program." The
2 executive director shall designate staff who may participate. In
3 furtherance of this purpose, the commission may accept grants of
4 funds and gifts and may use its public facilities for such purpose.
5 At all times, the participation of commissioners and staff shall
6 comply with chapter 42.52 RCW and chapter 292-110 WAC.

7 All rules and regulations adopted by the commission shall be
8 adopted and administered pursuant to the administrative procedure
9 act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and the open public meetings act, chapter
10 42.30 RCW.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are each
12 added to chapter 43.101 RCW.

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