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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5367**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Orwall, Conway, and Hasegawa)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to grant programs fostering community engagement  
2 through law enforcement-community partnerships and immersion;  
3 amending RCW 43.330.545; and adding a new section to chapter 43.330  
4 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.330.545 and 2023 c 189 s 1 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
9 specific purpose, a project is created in the department to foster  
10 community engagement through neighborhood organizing, law  
11 enforcement-community partnerships, youth mobilization, and business  
12 engagement. The department shall administer the project. The project  
13 must include funding for programs delivering services in a range of  
14 rural and urban counties across Washington.

15 (2) The department shall adopt policies and procedures necessary  
16 to administer the project including: (a) An application process; (b)  
17 disbursement of the grant award to selected applicants; (c) tracking  
18 compliance and proper use of funds; and (d) measuring outcomes.

19 (3) Eligible applicants must:

20 (a) Be a public agency or nongovernmental organization;

1 (b) Have demonstrated experience with community engagement  
2 initiatives that impact public safety;

3 (c) Include community engagement in their services;

4 (d) Have established or be willing to establish a coordinated  
5 effort with committed partners, which must include law enforcement  
6 and organizations committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion of  
7 community members, including organizations whose leadership  
8 specifically reflects the communities most impacted by racism; and

9 (e) Have established priorities, policies, and measurable goals  
10 in compliance with the requirements of the project as provided in  
11 subsection (5) of this section.

12 (4) A law enforcement agency applying for a grant award shall not  
13 be considered an eligible applicant unless there are no other  
14 eligible applicants from the community or county the law enforcement  
15 agency serves.

16 (5) The grant recipient shall:

17 (a) Lead and facilitate neighborhood organizing initiatives,  
18 including:

19 (i) Empowering community members with tools, skills, confidence,  
20 and connections to identify, eradicate, and prevent illegal activity;

21 (ii) Making neighborhood improvements to deter future criminal  
22 activity; or

23 (iii) Educating community members regarding how to connect with  
24 city, county, and law enforcement resources;

25 (b) Build substantive law enforcement-community partnerships,  
26 including:

27 (i) Building trust between community members and law enforcement  
28 by facilitating purposeful antiracist practices and the development  
29 of policies that lead to equal treatment under the law;

30 (ii) Establishing clear expectations for law enforcement to be  
31 competent to practice fair and equitable treatment including  
32 facilitating dialogue between law enforcement and community members  
33 to increase understanding of the impact of historical racist  
34 practices and current conflicts;

35 (iii) Community members regularly informing law enforcement,  
36 through presentations, workshops, or forums, on community perceptions  
37 of law enforcement and public safety issues;

38 (iv) Educating community members on the role and function of law  
39 enforcement in the community;

1 (v) Clarifying expectations of law enforcement and of the role of  
2 the community in crime prevention;

3 (vi) Educating community members on the best practices for  
4 reporting emergency and nonemergency activities;

5 (vii) Recognizing community members for effective engagement and  
6 community leadership; and

7 (viii) Recognizing law enforcement officials for efforts to  
8 engage underrepresented communities, improve community engagement and  
9 empowerment, and reform law enforcement practices;

10 (c) Mobilize youth to partner with neighborhood groups and law  
11 enforcement to prevent violence by:

12 (i) Helping them develop knowledge and skills to serve as leaders  
13 in their communities;

14 (ii) Focusing on prevention of violence and substance abuse; or

15 (iii) Empowering youth to bring their voice to community issues  
16 that impact healthy police-community relations;

17 (d) Engage businesses to help prevent crimes, such as vandalism  
18 and burglaries, through safety training and other prevention  
19 initiatives;

20 (e) Provide training and technical assistance on how to implement  
21 community engagement, improving law enforcement and community  
22 partnership, youth engagement, and business engagement;

23 (f) Identify and maintain consistent, experienced, and committed  
24 leadership for managing the grant, including an administrator who  
25 acts as an available point of contact with the department; and

26 (g) Collect and report data and information required by the  
27 department.

28 (6) The department shall, in consultation with the Washington  
29 state institute for public policy, develop reporting guidelines for  
30 the grant recipients to measure whether the project had an impact on  
31 crime rates and community engagement with, and perceptions of, law  
32 enforcement. The department shall report to the appropriate  
33 legislative policy committees by December 1st every odd-numbered year  
34 with details on the implementation of the project and the outcomes of  
35 the reported data and information.

36 (~~(7) This section expires January 1, 2029.~~)

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 Subject to the amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,  
2 the department of commerce shall develop and administer a community  
3 immersion law enforcement grant program. The program must facilitate  
4 engagement in, and knowledge of, the unique aspects of the community  
5 which a newly hired law enforcement officer will serve by placing  
6 newly hired officers in community-based organizations to engage in  
7 community-focused work while awaiting entry to the basic law  
8 enforcement academy per RCW 43.101.200. In administering the program,  
9 the department must:

10 (1) Award competitive grants to local law enforcement agencies  
11 using a grants review committee comprised of a sheriff or police  
12 chief, a law enforcement officer who holds a rank at or below that of  
13 sergeant, and a member of a community-based organization;

14 (2) Require grant recipients to gather and report data and engage  
15 in an evaluation process informed by the city of Kent's experience  
16 pursuant to section 129(60), chapter 334, Laws of 2021;

17 (3) Require grant recipients to assign officers to the program  
18 for not less than 45 days of service time;

19 (4) Prohibit grant recipients from providing a stipend or other  
20 financial arrangement to community-based organizations participating  
21 in the program in excess of \$5,000 per participant;

22 (5) Allow grant recipients to utilize grant funds to pay for  
23 overtime costs required to fill vacant patrol shifts while the newly  
24 hired officer participates in the program; and

25 (6) Limit the department's costs of administering the program to  
26 no more than five percent of the amounts appropriated.

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