

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 2337

Brief Description: Ordering implementation of a state-wide city and county jail booking and reporting system.

Sponsors: Representatives Ballasiotes and O'Brien.

Hearing: January 18, 2000

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

Staff: Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

BACKGROUND:

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is considered a combination of units of local government. It is responsible for, upon the request of a county, assisting that county in helping to develop and implement its local law and justice plan. The association also maintains a central repository for the collection of all malicious harassment type crimes and, on occasion, is responsible for working with other state and local agencies in conducting crime-related studies.

SUMMARY OF BILL:

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) must implement and operate a state-wide central booking and reporting system by December 31, 2001. At a minimum the system must contain:

- Each offense an arrested individual is being charged with;
- Descriptive information about each offender such as the offender's name, vital statistics, address, and mugshot;
- Any information about the offender while in jail, which could be used to protect criminal justice officials that have future contact with the offender, such as medical conditions and behavior problems;
- Statistical data indicating the current capacity of each jail and the quantity and category of offenses charged; and
- The ability to communicate directly and immediately with the city and county jails and other criminal justice entities.

The system must be placed on the Washington Justice Information Network and be

capable of communicating electronically with every city and county jail and with all state criminal justice agencies located in Washington.

After the WASPC has implemented the electronic jail booking system, if a city or county jail or law enforcement agency receives state or federal funding to cover the cost of implementing or reconfiguring an electronic jail booking system, the city or county jail or law enforcement agency must reconfigure its electronic jail booking system so that it is in compliance with WASPC's jail booking system.

City or county jails, or law enforcement agencies that operate electronic jail booking systems, but choose not to accept state or federal money to implement or reconfigure their electronic jail booking systems, must electronically forward their jail booking information to the WASPC. The electronic format that is sent must be at the discretion of the city or county jail, or law enforcement agency but must include at a minimum the name of the offender, any vital statistics, the date of arrest, the charge, and if available, the mug shot.

The WASPC must appoint and convene a state-wide Jail Booking and Reporting System Standards Committee comprising of representatives from the WASPC, the information service board's justice information committee, at least two individuals who serve as jailers in a city or county jail, and any other individuals that the WASPC chooses to place on the committee. The committee is authorized to develop and amend as needed operational standards for the state-wide jail booking and reporting system. In addition, the committee must develop and amend as needed standards for allocating grants to city and county jails or law enforcement agencies that will be implementing or reconfiguring their electronic jail booking system.

All operational standards and the standards developed for allocating grants to city and county jails and law enforcement agencies for the purpose of implementing the central electronic jail booking system must be placed in a report. The report must be provided to all city and county jails, all criminal justice agencies, the chair of the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee, and the chair of the House of Representatives Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee by January 1, 2001.

The WASPC is also responsible for pursuing federal funding to pay for the costs of implementing the central jail booking system. All federal or state money collected to offset the costs associated with the jail booking and reporting system must be deposited and processed through a local jail booking system grant fund to be established and managed by WASPC. The state-wide jail booking and reporting system standards committee is responsible for distributing the grants in accordance with the standards it develops.

FISCAL NOTE: Requested on January 12, 2000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.