

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## HB 2991

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning background checks of certain metropolitan park district employees, volunteers, and independent contractors.

**Sponsors:** By Representatives Darneille, Walsh, Springer and Simpson.

**House Committee on Local Government**

**Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections**

### **Background:**

A metropolitan park district manages, controls, improves, maintains, and acquires parks, parkways, boulevards, and recreational facilities. The board of park commissioners consists of five members who have a variety of powers to manage the district.

In 1987, the Legislature authorized the Washington State Patrol Criminal Identification System (WSPCIS) to provide background information on prospective employees and volunteers to businesses and organizations that provide services to children or developmentally disabled persons.

Local criminal justice agencies are required by law to submit felony and gross misdemeanor arrest and disposition information to the Washington State Patrol, where it is included in a Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) data base. The CHRI repository includes information on arrests, detentions, other formal criminal charges, and any disposition arising from those charges, including sentences and release.

### **Summary:**

Metropolitan park districts must establish by resolution the requirements for a criminal history record check of all employees, volunteers, and independent contractors who will either have access to children or vulnerable adults while unsupervised or who will be responsible for monetary transactions. The background checks will be processed through the WSPCIS, as provided for in statute, and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The background checks must include a fingerprint check using a complete Washington criminal identification fingerprint card. Park districts are required to provide a copy of the record report to the employee, volunteer, or independent contractor (employee). Park districts may determine that it is necessary to employ someone on a conditional basis while the investigation is being conducted, may decide to waive the background check if the prospective employee has had a record check within the past year, and may require that the prospective employee pay for the record check.

The term "park policemen" is changed to "park police."

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	97	1	
Senate	47	0	(Senate amended)
House	96	1	(House concurred)

**Effective:** June 7, 2006