
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6320

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Regala, Brandland, Franklin, Doumit, Rasmussen, Carrell, Haugen, Pridemore, Kline, Stevens, Keiser, Berkey, Thibaudeau, Jacobsen, Pflug, Sheldon, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Roach and Benton)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to a model policy for disclosure of sex offender
2 information; amending RCW 4.24.5501; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 4.24.5501 and 1997 c 364 s 6 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) (~~By December 1, 1997~~) When funded, the Washington association
7 of sheriffs and police chiefs shall convene a sex offender model policy
8 work group to develop a model policy for law enforcement agencies (~~to~~
9 ~~follow when they disclose information about sex offenders to the public~~
10 ~~under RCW 4.24.550. The model policy shall be designed to further the~~
11 ~~objectives of providing adequate notice to the community concerning sex~~
12 ~~offenders who are or will be residing in the community and of assisting~~
13 ~~community members in developing constructive plans to prepare~~
14 ~~themselves and their children for residing near released sex~~
15 ~~offenders)) and other criminal justice personnel. The model policy
16 shall provide guidelines for sex offender registration, community
17 notification, and strategies for sex offender management.~~

18 (2) In developing the policy, the association shall consult with
19 representatives of the following agencies and professions: (a) The

1 department of corrections; (b) the department of social and health
2 services; (c) the indeterminate sentence review board; (d) the
3 Washington state council of police officers; (e) local correctional
4 agencies; (f) the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys; (g)
5 the Washington public defender association; (h) the Washington
6 association for the treatment of sexual abusers; (i) the office of the
7 superintendent of public instruction; (j) the criminal justice training
8 commission; (k) the Washington association of criminal defense lawyers;
9 (l) the association of Washington cities; (m) the Washington coalition
10 of sexual assault programs; and ((+i)) (n) victim advocates.

11 The sex offender model policy work group, once convened, shall
12 first conduct a series of community meetings around the state to assess
13 the practices and needs of communities, identify best practices on sex
14 offender registration, community notification, and strategies for sex
15 offender management. Once the sex offender model policy work group has
16 received input from stakeholders on a final draft of the model policy,
17 the policy shall be presented to the Washington association of sheriffs
18 and police chiefs for adoption or rejection. Following the adoption of
19 a model policy, the sex offender model policy work group shall conduct
20 a series of meetings around the state with local law enforcement
21 agencies and other criminal justice personnel to review the model
22 policy and conduct training as needed. The sex offender model policy
23 work group shall then be dissolved, and, when funded, the Washington
24 association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall be responsible for the
25 continued promotion of the model policy, including annual or biennial
26 regional workshops with local law enforcement agencies and other
27 criminal justice personnel to encourage sex offender registration,
28 community notification, and strategies for sex offender management
29 policies and practices that best fit the needs, characteristics, and
30 risks of each community.

31 (3) The model policy shall, at a minimum, include recommendations
32 to address the following issues: (a) Procedures for local agencies or
33 officials to accomplish the notifications required under RCW
34 4.24.550(~~(+8)~~) (10), including the identification of best practices
35 for community notification, as they relate to the specific needs and
36 characteristics to each community and the risk posed to that community;
37 (b) contents and form of community notification documents, including
38 procedures for ensuring the accuracy of factual information contained

1 in the notification documents, and ways of protecting the privacy of
2 victims of the offenders' crimes; (c) methods of distributing community
3 notification documents, including distribution to schools; (d) methods
4 of providing follow-up notifications to community residents at
5 specified intervals and of disclosing information about offenders to
6 law enforcement agencies in other jurisdictions if necessary to protect
7 the public; (e) methods of educating community residents at public
8 meetings on how they can use the information in the notification
9 document in a reasonable manner to enhance their individual and
10 collective safety; (f) procedures for educating community members
11 regarding the right of sex offenders not to be the subject of
12 harassment or criminal acts as a result of the notification process;
13 ~~((and))~~ (g) procedures and documents for local law enforcement agencies
14 to provide appropriate notification when a sex offender risk level is
15 reclassified, including strategies to monitor the reclassification of
16 sex offender risk levels by local law enforcement agencies; (h)
17 formulas and instructions on standard sex offender risk assessment
18 instruments; (i) strategies for sex offender management; and (j) other
19 matters the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs deems
20 necessary ~~((to ensure the effective and fair administration of RCW~~
21 ~~4.24.550))~~ as it relates to sex offender registration, community
22 notification, and management.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. If specific funding for the purposes of this
24 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
25 June 30, 2006, in the supplemental omnibus appropriations act, this act
26 is null and void.

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