

SB 6524 - DIGEST

Defines "general authority Washington peace officer" to mean an officer authorized to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the state of Washington generally and "tribal police officer" to mean any person in the employ of one of the federally recognized sovereign tribal governments, whose traditional lands and territories lie within the borders of the state of Washington, to enforce the criminal laws of that government.

Provides that tribal police officers under this act are authorized to act as general authority Washington peace officers and have the same powers as any other general authority Washington peace officer to enforce state laws in Washington, including the power to make arrests for violations of state laws. This authority is subject to the appropriate sovereign tribal nation submitting to the office of financial management proof of public liability and property damage insurance for vehicles operated by the peace officers, police professional liability insurance, and training requirements for each tribal police officer.

Requires that a copy of any citation or notice of infraction issued, or any incident report taken, by a tribal police officer must be submitted within three days to the police chief or sheriff within whose jurisdiction the action was taken. The citation shall be to a Washington court, except that any citation issued to Indians within the exterior boundaries of an Indian reservation may be cited to a tribal court.

Provides that for purposes of civil liability, a tribal police officer shall not be considered an employee of the state of Washington.