
Public Safety Committee

HB 1501

Brief Description: Concerning a proactive policing grant program.

Sponsors: Representatives Klippert, Goodman, Barkis, Lovick and Irwin.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a proactive policing grant program administered through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs that provides funding to law enforcement agencies to address the individual public safety needs of their communities.

Hearing Date: 2/5/19

Staff: Omeara Harrington (786-7136).

Background:

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is a statewide organization consisting of executive and management personnel from law enforcement agencies. Membership includes sheriffs, police chiefs, the Washington State Patrol, the Department of Corrections, and representatives of a number of federal agencies. The 1975 Washington Legislature made the WASPC a statutory entity by designating the association as a "combination of units of local government."

The WASPC has been tasked with managing certain statewide programs, such as the Jail Booking and Reporting System. Additionally, it has been given administrative responsibility for several state-funded grant programs, including grant programs addressing gang crime, graffiti and tagging abatement, denied firearm purchase attempts, sexual assault kits, metal theft, and mental health field response.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

When funding is provided, the WASPC must develop and implement a proactive policing grant program. Grants must be awarded to local law enforcement agencies based on locally developed proposals to address public safety needs in their respective communities.

Basic criteria for grant proposals are outlined. Proposals must: demonstrate the public safety problem to be addressed; identify the strategy for addressing the problem; and identify specific data elements to measure the current state of the problem and the success of the action taken to address the problem. Two or more agencies may submit a joint grant proposal.

A peer review panel appointed by the WASPC must review grant applications. Priority may be given to applications that include local matching funds. To the extent possible, grants should be awarded on a two-year cycle.

The WASPC must report annually to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature with certain information relating to the grant program. The report must include information on the grant recipients, use of funds, and feedback from the grant recipients.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 30, 2019.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.