

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1530

C 11 L 24
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Expanding eligibility for employment of certain law enforcement and prosecutor office positions.

Sponsors: Representatives Cortes, Mena, Simmons, Ryu, Davis and Fosse.

House Committee on Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry
Senate Committee on Law & Justice

Background:

Law Enforcement Agencies.

A general authority peace officer is an individual commissioned to enforce the criminal laws of the State of Washington generally. A limited authority peace officer is an individual empowered by his or her employing agency to detect or apprehend violators of the laws in some or all of the limited subject areas for which his or her employing agency is responsible.

All general authority peace officers must be certified by the Criminal Justice Training Commission as a condition of employment. The certification process includes a background check that verifies whether the peace officer is a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident. Similarly, statutory provisions relating to civil service for city policy require that applicants be citizens of the United States or lawful permanent residents.

Prosecuting Attorneys.

To be qualified as a county prosecuting attorney, a person must be a qualified elector in the county in which he or she is running and an attorney licensed to practice in Washington. Prosecuting attorneys may appoint one or more deputies who have the same power as their principal. Each deputy must have the same qualifications as the prosecutor, except the deputy does not need to reside in the county in which the deputy serves.

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

Lawful Permanent Residents.

Under federal law, a lawful permanent resident (sometimes known as a "green card" holder) is a person who is legally authorized to reside permanently in the United States. A lawful permanent resident has many of the same rights as a United States citizen, including the ability to accept employment, own property, and join the United States armed forces.

Summary:

Law Enforcement Agencies.

A general authority law enforcement agency or a limited authority law enforcement agency may consider the application of a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident for any office, place, position, or employment within the agency.

Prosecuting Attorneys.

A deputy prosecuting attorney is not required to be a qualified elector in the county in which he or she serves. Each deputy must be a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	95	0
House	93	0
Senate	48	0

Effective: June 6, 2024