
HOUSE BILL 1534

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives H. Myers, Beck, Riley, R. King, Tate, Anderson, Vance, Cooper, Ludwig, Hargrove, Padden, Bray, Rasmussen, Sheldon, Leonard, Forner, Brekke, Peery, Belcher, G. Fisher, Morris, Grant, Jones, O'Brien, Orr, Wang, Heavey, Roland, Paris and Winsley.

Read first time January 31, 1991. Referred to Committee on Judiciary\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to training for investigating and prosecuting
2 sexual assault cases; adding new sections to chapter 36.27 RCW;
3 creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS. The safety of all children is
6 enhanced when sexual assault cases are properly investigated and
7 prosecuted. The legislature finds that sexual assault cases,
8 particularly those in which children are victimized, are difficult to
9 prosecute successfully. Successful prosecution of sexual assault cases
10 requires that the prosecutors and investigators have a high degree of
11 training and skill in handling sexual assaults. The legislature
12 further finds that in the less populated areas of the state, it is
13 difficult for local prosecutors and law enforcement agencies to obtain
14 the needed specialization to handle these cases. Therefore, the

1 legislature intends to establish a mechanism to provide the training
2 and special investigators to more effectively prosecute these cases.
3

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** TRAINING FOR INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING.

5 (1) Each year the criminal justice training commission shall offer an
6 intensive, week-long training session on investigating and prosecuting
7 sexual assault cases for up to twenty prosecuting attorneys and deputy
8 prosecuting attorneys. The training shall place particular emphasis on
9 the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases involving
10 child victims.

11 (2) The commission shall seek advice from the Washington
12 association of prosecuting attorneys and the Washington coalition of
13 sexual assault programs in planning the curriculum and recruiting
14 faculty for this program.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** SEXUAL ASSAULT PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE

16 PROGRAM. (1) There is created in the department of community
17 development the sexual assault prosecution assistance program to assist
18 county prosecuting attorneys in the investigation and prosecution of
19 sexual assault and child abuse cases, primarily for those cases
20 involving child victims. The department of community development shall
21 contract with the Washington state association of prosecuting attorneys
22 to employ a project coordinator who shall be responsible for the
23 training, assignment, and overall supervision of investigators.

24 (2) The department of community development shall employ ten
25 investigators who shall be assigned to a prosecuting attorney and shall
26 be under the supervision of the project coordinator. The investigators
27 shall be specially trained in investigating sexual assault cases, with
28 primary focus on those cases involving child victims. The project

1 coordinator shall assign each investigator to a prosecuting attorney in
2 areas of the state where law enforcement officers who specialize in
3 investigating child sexual assault or abuse are not available. The
4 prosecuting attorney shall be responsible for the daily supervision of
5 the investigators and may agree to make the investigator available for
6 investigations on a regional basis and may be made available to child
7 protective services, if requested.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** SEXUAL ASSAULT COMMITTEE. A state-wide
9 committee on sexual assault is established. The committee shall be
10 comprised of five prosecuting attorneys, one representative of the
11 department of social and health services, a representative of the
12 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, two
13 representatives from the Washington coalition of sexual assault
14 programs, and four legislators, two from each house, one from each
15 caucus. The committee shall oversee the project and provide advice to
16 the project coordinator.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** LEGAL ADVOCATES. The department of social
18 and health services shall provide up to one legal advocate per sexual
19 assault program that qualifies for funding under the victims of sexual
20 assault fund. The legal advocates shall have completed a training
21 program to be designed and administered by the Washington association
22 of prosecuting attorneys and the Washington coalition of sexual assault
23 programs.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each
25 added to chapter 36.27 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Section headings as used in sections 2
2 through 5 of this act do not constitute any part of the law.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The sum of eighty thousand dollars, or as
4 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
5 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the criminal justice
6 training commission for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The sum of one million two hundred eighty
8 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
9 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
10 fund to the department of community development for the purposes of
11 section 3 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The sum of one million dollars, or as
13 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
14 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the department of social
15 and health services for the purposes of section 5 of this act.