
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5108

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Patterson, Johnson, Eide, Rossi, Prentice, T. Sheldon, Winsley, McAuliffe, Oke, Kohl-Welles and Costa; by request of Lieutenant Governor)

Read first time 03/08/99.

1 AN ACT Relating to missing and exploited children; adding new
2 sections to chapter 13.60 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds a compelling need to
5 address the problem of missing children, whether those children have
6 been abducted by a stranger, are missing due to custodial interference,
7 or are classified as runaways. Washington state ranks twelfth in the
8 nation for active cases of missing juveniles and, at any given time,
9 more than one thousand eight hundred Washington children are reported
10 as missing. The potential for physical and psychological trauma to
11 these children is extreme. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is
12 paramount for the safety of these children that there be a concerted
13 effort to resolve cases of missing and exploited children.

14 Due to the complexity of many child abduction cases, most law
15 enforcement personnel are unprepared and lack adequate resources to
16 successfully and efficiently investigate these crimes. Therefore, it
17 is the intent of the legislature that a multiagency task force be
18 established within the Washington state patrol, to be available to
19 assist local jurisdictions in missing child cases through referrals,

1 on-site assistance, case management, and training. The legislature
2 intends that the task force will increase the effectiveness of a
3 specific case investigation by drawing from the combined resources,
4 knowledge, and technical expertise of the members of the task force.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A task force on missing and exploited
6 children is established in the Washington state patrol. The task force
7 shall be under the direction of the chief of the state patrol.

8 (2) The task force is authorized to assist law enforcement
9 agencies, upon request, in cases involving missing or exploited
10 children by:

11 (a) Direct assistance and case management;

12 (b) Technical assistance;

13 (c) Personnel training;

14 (d) Referral for assistance from local, state, national, and
15 international agencies; and

16 (e) Coordination and information sharing among local, state,
17 interstate, and federal law enforcement and social service agencies.

18 (3) To maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of state resources
19 and to improve interagency cooperation, the task force shall, where
20 feasible, use existing facilities, systems, and staff made available by
21 the state patrol and other local, state, interstate, and federal law
22 enforcement and social service agencies. The chief of the state patrol
23 may employ such additional personnel as are necessary for the work of
24 the task force and may share personnel costs with other agencies.

25 (4) The chief of the state patrol shall seek public and private
26 grants and gifts to support the work of the task force.

27 (5) By December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the chief of the
28 state patrol shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
29 legislature. The report shall establish performance measurements and
30 objectives for the task force and assess the accomplishments of the
31 task force.

32 (6) For the purposes of sections 1 through 3 of this act,
33 "exploited children" means children under the age of eighteen who are
34 employed, used, persuaded, induced, enticed, or coerced to engage in,
35 or assist another person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct.
36 "Exploited children" also means the rape, molestation, or use for
37 prostitution of children under the age of eighteen.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The advisory board on missing and exploited
2 children is established to advise the chief of the Washington state
3 patrol on the objectives, conduct, management, and coordination of the
4 various activities of the task force on missing and exploited children.

5 (1) The chief of the state patrol shall appoint five members to the
6 advisory board: (a) One member shall be a county prosecuting attorney
7 or a representative and shall be appointed in consultation with the
8 elected county prosecutors; (b) two members shall be a municipal police
9 chief and a county sheriff, or their representatives, and shall be
10 appointed in consultation with the association of sheriffs and police
11 chiefs under RCW 36.28A.010; (c) one member shall be a representative
12 of the state patrol; and (d) one member shall be a representative of
13 parents of missing or exploited children.

14 (2) A sixth member of the board shall represent and be appointed by
15 the attorney general.

16 (3) To improve interagency communication and coordination, the
17 chief of the state patrol shall invite representatives of federal law
18 enforcement agencies and state social service agencies to participate
19 in the advisory board.

20 (4) The members of the board shall be qualified on the basis of
21 knowledge and experience as may contribute to the effective performance
22 of the board's duties. The board shall elect its own chair from among
23 its members. Meetings of the board may be convened at the call of the
24 chair or by a majority of the members.

25 (5) The term of each member of the board shall be two years and
26 shall be conditioned upon the member retaining the official position
27 from which the member was appointed.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the
29 Teekah Lewis act.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each
31 added to chapter 13.60 RCW.

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