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SENATE BILL 6369

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Patterson, McCaslin, Haugen, Long, Costa, Fairley, Eide, Heavey, Wojahn, Prentice, Brown and Winsley

Read first time 01/14/2000. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to a law enforcement study; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 39.34 RCW; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that population growth  
5 and overall economic prosperity has had a profound effect on law  
6 enforcement in counties with significant urban centers and suburban  
7 growth in Washington. Incorporations and annexations have caused  
8 cities, both small and large, to consider their own municipal police  
9 departments. Furthermore, the legislature recognizes that cities,  
10 counties, and the Washington state patrol have limited resources to  
11 support and maintain necessary public safety services.

12 In the absence of county-wide law enforcement needs and services  
13 analysis, some law enforcement agencies have developed special unit  
14 capabilities that may need coordination with other cities' law  
15 enforcement agencies and the county sheriff. The legislature also  
16 finds that as a result, there may be differences in public safety  
17 service delivery in Washington where there is either duplication or an  
18 absence of available specialty services increasing the possibility of  
19 municipal liability and risk, and inefficient and/or unnecessary use of

1 public safety funds. Recognizing that coordinated law enforcement and  
2 basic public safety service standards on a county-wide basis is in the  
3 best interests of the citizens of Washington, the legislature therefore  
4 intends with this act to authorize a study of law enforcement costs,  
5 expenditures, services, cooperative arrangements, and service delivery  
6 models for counties with over one hundred fifty thousand population.  
7 The goal of the regional services study is to produce implementable  
8 recommendations for cost-effective, collaborative law enforcement  
9 service delivery partnerships.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 39.34 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall  
13 conduct a study of the total costs and expenditures for law enforcement  
14 for both counties and cities within the county for counties with  
15 populations over one hundred fifty thousand. The focus of the study:

16 (a) Would include recommendations for law enforcement  
17 jurisdictions, Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs  
18 actions, and the legislature;

19 (b) Shall be to research, compile, and analyze data sufficient to  
20 provide a comprehensive analysis of the costs and total expenditures  
21 for law enforcement. These costs include but are not limited to  
22 special services, defined as but not limited to: SWAT teams, bomb  
23 disposal units, air support, marine units, hostage negotiation teams,  
24 homicide investigation units, drug units, canine units, arson  
25 investigation teams, computer fraud and forensics units, domestic  
26 violence and special assault units, and gang and youth violence units.  
27 The study should distinguish where there are duplications and gaps in  
28 service delivery;

29 (c) Shall be to obtain data from all local governments on the types  
30 of costs identified in (b) of this subsection. This data will be  
31 compiled and analyzed by the agency or organization commissioned to  
32 conduct the study for each county;

33 (d) Shall be to obtain data from those counties and law enforcement  
34 agencies where master interlocal agreements, joint specialty service  
35 units, and other cooperative arrangements have been developed between  
36 law enforcement agencies to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and  
37 ensured quality of specialty law enforcement services.

1           (2) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall  
2 commence the study no later than July 1, 2000, and complete the study  
3 no later than January 1, 2001. The final report shall be distributed  
4 to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs and to the  
5 appropriate standing committee no later than January 30, 2001.

6           NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or  
7 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general  
8 fund to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs for  
9 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, to carry out the purposes of this  
10 act.

11           NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
12 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
13 June 30, 2000, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
14 void.

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