

SHB 2556 - H AMD 825

By Representative O'Brien

WITHDRAWN 02/13/2004

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A joint task force on criminal
4 background check processes is established. The joint task force shall
5 consist of the following members:

6 (a) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the
7 senate, appointed by the president of the senate; at least one member
8 from each caucus shall be a member of the senate children and family
9 services and corrections committee;

10 (b) Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
11 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
12 representatives; at least one member from each caucus shall be a member
13 of the house criminal justice and corrections committee;

14 (c) The chief of the Washington state patrol, or the chief's
15 designee;

16 (d) The secretary of the department of social and health services,
17 or the secretary's designee;

18 (e) The state superintendent of public instruction, or the
19 superintendent's designee;

20 (f) An elected sheriff or police chief, selected by the Washington
21 association of sheriffs and police chiefs; and

22 (g) The following seven members, jointly appointed by the speaker
23 of the house of representatives and the president of the senate:

24 (i) A representative from a nonprofit service organization that
25 serves primarily children under sixteen years of age;

26 (ii) A health care provider as defined in RCW 7.70.020;

27 (iii) A representative from a business or organization that serves
28 primarily developmentally disabled persons or vulnerable adults;

29 (iv) A representative from a local youth athletic association;

30 (v) A representative from the insurance industry; and

1 (vi) Two representatives from a local parks and recreation program;
2 one member shall be selected by the association of Washington cities
3 and one member shall be selected by the Washington association of
4 counties.

5 (2) The task force shall choose two cochairs from among its
6 membership.

7 (3) The task force shall review and make recommendations to the
8 legislature and the governor regarding the criminal background check
9 process. In preparing the recommendations, the committee shall, at a
10 minimum, review the following issues:

11 (a) What state and federal statutes require regarding criminal
12 background checks;

13 (b) What criminal offenses are currently reportable through the
14 criminal background check program;

15 (c) What information is available through the Washington state
16 patrol and the federal bureau of investigation criminal background
17 check systems;

18 (d) What are the best practices among organizations for obtaining
19 criminal background checks on their employees and volunteers;

20 (e) What is the response time for obtaining criminal history
21 information back from the Washington state patrol and the federal
22 bureau of investigation;

23 (f) What are the costs associated with requesting criminal
24 background checks from the Washington state patrol and the federal
25 bureau of investigation;

26 (g) What is the feasibility and costs for businesses and
27 organizations to do periodic background checks; and

28 (h) What is the feasibility of requiring all businesses and
29 organizations, including nonprofit entities, to conduct criminal
30 background checks for all employees, contractors, agents, and
31 volunteers who have regularly scheduled supervised or unsupervised
32 access to children, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable
33 adults.

34 (4) The task force, where feasible, may consult with individuals
35 from the public and private sector.

36 (5) The task force shall use legislative facilities and staff from
37 senate committee services and the house office of program research.

1 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
2 the legislature by December 31, 2004.

3 (7) This section expires January 31, 2005."

4 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Instead of requiring the WASPC and the WSP to conduct a study on how to improve the criminal background check process, this amendment creates a joint task force to study the issue. The task force will consist of House and Senate members, state and local agency designees that use criminal background check information on a regular basis, as well as other representatives from organizations that serve primarily children and vulnerable adults. The task force will review current statutes, costs, and response times for criminal background checks. In addition, the task force must determine what the best practices are among organizations for obtaining criminal background checks on their employees and volunteers, and determine the feasibility of requiring all businesses and organizations, including nonprofit entities, to conduct criminal background checks for all employees and volunteers who have regularly scheduled supervised or unsupervised access to children, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults.

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