
HOUSE BILL 2379

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Armstrong, Nixon and Hunter

Read first time 01/13/2004. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing peace officers essential training in
2 firearm retention and survival techniques and enacting the Saul
3 Gallegos Peace Officer Survival Act of 2004; adding a new section to
4 chapter 10.93 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act shall be known and cited as "the
7 Saul Gallegos Peace Officer Survival Act of 2004."

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 10.93 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The legislature finds that since 1855, two hundred fifty-four law
11 enforcement officers, "heroes of the badge," in Washington state have
12 given their lives in the line of duty. The number of law enforcement
13 officers killed or harmed in the line of duty both here and around the
14 country is unacceptable. Many of these deaths and injuries result from
15 criminal suspects using the officers' own weapons against them. Most
16 of these incidents involve rapidly evolving situations, close quarters,
17 and hardened, high-risk subjects. If an aggressor attempts to strip an

1 officer of his or her weapon it should be considered a deadly force
2 issue and dealt with accordingly.

3 Promoting officer safety is an essential component in preserving
4 the thin blue line that protects law-abiding citizens from the criminal
5 element in society. One of the most important aspects of advancing
6 officer safety is ensuring officer expertise in maintaining possession
7 and control of their weapons and disarming their attackers.
8 Comprehensive training in weapon retention and survival techniques is
9 a necessary and critical element in preserving the well-being and lives
10 of law enforcement officers, and will reduce the number of officers
11 killed or injured with their own weapons.

12 Deputy Saul Gallegos of the Chelan County Sheriff's Department was
13 recently killed by his attackers with his own service weapon while in
14 the line of duty defending the public peace. The legislature intends
15 by this act to provide adequate funding for Washington state peace
16 officers to receive the training necessary for officers to achieve and
17 maintain expertise in weapon retention and survival techniques.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one million dollars, or as much
19 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
20 June 30, 2004, from the general fund to the criminal justice training
21 commission for the sole purpose of providing Washington peace officers
22 comprehensive training in weapon retention and survival techniques,
23 including techniques for defending against assailants trying to disarm
24 an officer's drawn gun and for regaining control if disarmed.

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