## SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5320

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

**By** Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove and Brandland; by request of Criminal Justice Training Commission)

READ FIRST TIME 02/15/05.

AN ACT Relating to the certification of corrections officers; adding a new member to the criminal justice training commission; amending RCW 43.101.085, 43.101.010, 43.101.380, 43.101.400, and 43.101.030; adding new sections to chapter 43.101 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.101.085 and 2001 c 167 s 7 are each amended to read 8 as follows:

9 In addition to its other powers granted under this chapter, the 10 commission has authority and power to:

11 (1) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules as necessary to carry out this 12 chapter;

13 (2) Issue subpoenas and administer oaths in connection with 14 investigations, hearings, or other proceedings held under this chapter; 15 (3) Take or cause to be taken depositions and other discovery 16 procedures as needed in investigations, hearings, and other proceedings 17 held under this chapter;

18 (4) Appoint members of a hearings board as provided under RCW19 43.101.380;

(5) Enter into contracts for professional services determined by
 the commission to be necessary for adequate enforcement of this
 chapter;

4 (6) Grant, deny, or revoke certification of peace officers and
 5 <u>corrections officers</u> under the provisions of this chapter;

6 (7) Designate individuals authorized to sign subpoenas and 7 statements of charges under the provisions of this chapter; and

8 (8) Employ such investigative, administrative, and clerical staff9 as necessary for the enforcement of this chapter.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.101.010 and 2003 c 39 s 27 are each amended to read 11 as follows:

12 When used in this chapter:

13 (1) The term "commission" means the Washington state criminal 14 justice training commission.

(2) The term "boards" means the education and training standardsboards, the establishment of which are authorized by this chapter.

17 (3) The term "criminal justice personnel" means any person who 18 serves in a county, city, state, or port commission agency engaged in 19 crime prevention, crime reduction, or enforcement of the criminal law.

20 (4) The term "law enforcement personnel" means any public employee 21 or volunteer having as a primary function the enforcement of criminal laws in general or any employee or volunteer of, or any individual 22 23 commissioned by, any municipal, county, state, or combination thereof, 24 agency having as its primary function the enforcement of criminal laws in general as distinguished from an agency possessing peace officer 25 26 powers, the primary function of which is the implementation of specialized subject matter areas. For the purposes of this subsection 27 "primary function" means that function to which the greater allocation 28 29 of resources is made.

30 (5) The term "correctional personnel" means any employee or 31 volunteer who by state, county, municipal, or combination thereof, 32 statute has the responsibility for the confinement, care, management, 33 training, treatment, education, supervision, or counseling of those 34 individuals whose civil rights have been limited in some way by legal 35 sanction.

36 (6) <u>The term "state juvenile services personnel" means any employee</u> 37 <u>or volunteer who by state statute has the responsibility for the</u> confinement, care, management, training, treatment, education,
 supervision, or counseling of those juveniles remanded to state custody
 whose civil rights have been limited in some way by legal sanction.

4 (7) A peace officer or corrections officer is "convicted" at the 5 time a plea of guilty has been accepted, or a verdict of guilty or 6 finding of guilt has been filed, notwithstanding the pendency of any 7 future proceedings, including but not limited to sentencing, posttrial 8 or postfact-finding motions and appeals. "Conviction" includes a 9 deferral of sentence and also includes the equivalent disposition by a 10 court in a jurisdiction other than the state of Washington.

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(((<del>(7)</del>))) (8) "Discharged for disqualifying misconduct" means:

12 (a) A peace officer is terminated from employment for: ((<del>(a)</del>)) (i) 13 Conviction of  $\left(\left(\frac{1}{1}\right)\right)$  (A) any crime committed under color of authority 14 as a peace officer,  $\left(\left(\frac{1}{1}\right)\right)$  (B) any crime involving dishonesty or false statement within the meaning of Evidence Rule 609(a), (((iii))) 15 (C) the unlawful use or possession of a controlled substance, or 16 17 ((((iv))) (D) any other crime the conviction of which disqualifies a Washington citizen from the legal right to possess a firearm under 18 state or federal law; (((b))) (ii) conduct that would constitute any of 19 the crimes addressed in  $(a)(\underline{i})$  of this subsection; or  $(((\underline{c})))$  (<u>iii</u>) 20 21 knowingly making materially false statements during disciplinary 22 investigations, where the false statements are the sole basis for the 23 termination.

24 (((<del>(8)</del>)) (b) A corrections officer is terminated from employment for: (i) Conviction of (A) any crime committed under color of 25 authority as a corrections officer, (B) any crime involving dishonesty 26 27 or false statement within the meaning of Evidence Rule 609(a), or (C) the unlawful use or possession of a controlled substance; (ii) conduct 28 that would constitute any of the crimes addressed in (b)(i) of this 29 subsection; or (iii) knowingly making materially false statements 30 during disciplinary investigations, where the false statements are the 31 sole basis for the termination. 32

33 (9) A peace officer <u>or corrections officer</u> is "discharged for 34 disqualifying misconduct" within the meaning of subsection ((+7+)) (8) 35 of this section under the ordinary meaning of the term and when the 36 totality of the circumstances support a finding that the officer 37 resigned in anticipation of discipline, whether or not the misconduct 38 was discovered at the time of resignation, and when such discipline, if 1 carried forward, would more likely than not have led to discharge for 2 disqualifying misconduct within the meaning of subsection ((<del>(7)</del>)) <u>(8)</u> 3 of this section.

(((9))) (10) When used in context of proceedings referred to in 4 this chapter, "final" means that the peace officer or corrections 5 officer has exhausted all available civil service appeals, collective 6 bargaining remedies, and all other such direct administrative appeals, 7 and the officer has not been reinstated as the result of the action. 8 Finality is not affected by the pendency or availability of state or 9 10 federal administrative or court actions for discrimination, or by the pendency or availability of any remedies other than direct civil 11 12 service and collective bargaining remedies.

13 ((((10))) (11) "Peace officer" means any law enforcement personnel subject to the basic law enforcement training requirement of RCW 14 43.101.200 and any other requirements of that section, notwithstanding 15 any waiver or exemption granted by the commission, and notwithstanding 16 17 the statutory exemption based on date of initial hire under RCW 43.101.200. Commissioned officers of the Washington state patrol, 18 whether they have been or may be exempted by rule of the commission 19 from the basic training requirement of RCW 43.101.200, are included as 20 21 peace officers for purposes of this chapter. Fish and wildlife 22 officers with enforcement powers for all criminal laws under RCW 77.15.075 are peace officers for purposes of this chapter. 23

24 (12) "Corrections officer" means any corrections personnel or state juvenile services personnel subject to the basic corrections training 25 26 requirement of RCW 43.101.220 and any other requirements of that 27 section, notwithstanding any waiver or exemption granted by the commission, and notwithstanding the statutory exemption based on date 28 of initial hire under RCW 43.101.220. State juvenile services 29 personnel who are required by agency policy and procedure to adhere to 30 an evidence-based model for service delivery shall be exempted from the 31 certification requirements of this chapter upon request of the 32 employing agency. 33

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) As a condition of continuing employment as corrections officers, all Washington state corrections officers shall: (a) Timely obtain certification as corrections officers, or timely obtain exemption therefrom, by meeting all requirements of RCW

43.101.220, as that section is administered under the rules of the 1 commission, as well as by meeting any additional requirements under 2 this chapter; and (b) maintain the basic certification as corrections 3 officers under this chapter. The commission shall certify corrections 4 5 officers who have satisfied, or have been exempted by statute or by rule from, the basic training requirements of RCW 43.101.220 on or б 7 before January 1, 2006. Thereafter, the commission may revoke certification pursuant to this chapter. 8

(2) The commission shall allow a corrections officer to retain 9 status as a certified corrections officer as long as the officer: (a) 10 Timely meets the basic corrections officer training requirements, or is 11 12 exempted therefrom, in whole or in part, under RCW 43.101.220 or under 13 rule of the commission; (b) meets or is exempted from any other 14 requirements under this chapter as administered under the rules adopted by the commission; (c) is not denied certification by the commission 15 16 under this chapter; and (d) has not had certification revoked by the 17 commission.

18 (3) As a prerequisite to certification, as well as a prerequisite 19 to pursuit of a hearing under section 9 of this act, a corrections 20 officer must, on a form devised or adopted by the commission, authorize 21 the release to the commission of his or her personnel files, 22 termination papers, criminal investigation files, or other files, 23 papers, or information that are directly related to a certification 24 matter or decertification matter before the commission.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Upon request by a corrections officer's employer or on its own initiative, the commission may deny or revoke certification of any corrections officer after written notice and hearing, if a hearing is timely requested by the corrections officer under section 9 of this act, based upon a finding of one or more of the following conditions:

(1) The corrections officer has failed to timely meet all
 requirements for obtaining a certificate of basic corrections training,
 or a certificate of exemption from the training;

34 (2) The corrections officer has knowingly falsified or omitted
 35 material information on an application for training or certification to
 36 the commission;

(3) The corrections officer has been convicted at any time of a 1 2 felony offense under the laws of this state or has been convicted of a federal or out-of-state offense comparable to a felony under the laws 3 of this state; except that if a certified corrections officer was 4 5 convicted of a felony before being employed as a corrections officer, and the circumstances of the prior felony conviction were fully 6 7 disclosed to his or her employer before being hired, the commission may revoke certification only with the agreement of the 8 employing 9 corrections agency;

10 (4) The corrections officer has been discharged for disqualifying 11 misconduct, the discharge is final, and some or all of the acts or 12 omissions forming the basis for the discharge proceedings occurred on 13 or after January 1, 2006;

14 (5) The corrections officer's certificate was previously issued by 15 administrative error on the part of the commission; or

16 (6) The corrections officer has interfered with an investigation or 17 action for denial or revocation of certificate by: (a) Knowingly 18 making a materially false statement to the commission; or (b) in any 19 matter under investigation by or otherwise before the commission, 20 tampering with evidence or tampering with or intimidating any witness.

21 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 5. (1) A person denied a certification based 22 upon dismissal or withdrawal from a basic corrections academy for any 23 reason not also involving discharge for disqualifying misconduct is 24 eligible for readmission and certification upon meeting standards 25 established in rules of the commission, which rules may provide for 26 probationary terms on readmission.

(2) A person whose certification is denied or revoked based upon prior administrative error of issuance, failure to cooperate, or interference with an investigation is eligible for certification upon meeting standards established in rules of the commission, rules which may provide for a probationary period of certification in the event of reinstatement of eligibility.

33 (3) A person whose certification is denied or revoked based upon a 34 felony criminal conviction is not eligible for certification at any 35 time.

36 (4) A corrections officer whose certification is denied or revoked
 37 based upon discharge for disqualifying misconduct, but not also based

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upon a felony criminal conviction, may, five years after the revocation 1 2 or denial, petition the commission for reinstatement of the certificate or for eligibility for reinstatement. The commission shall hold a 3 hearing on the petition to consider reinstatement, and the commission 4 5 may allow reinstatement based upon standards established in rules of the commission. If the certificate is reinstated or eligibility for 6 7 certification is determined, the commission may establish а probationary period of certification. 8

(5) A corrections officer whose certification is revoked based 9 solely upon a criminal conviction may petition the commission for 10 reinstatement immediately upon a final judicial reversal of the 11 conviction. The commission shall hold a hearing on request to consider 12 reinstatement, and the commission may allow reinstatement based on 13 standards established in rules of the commission. If the certificate 14 is reinstated or if eligibility for certification is determined, the 15 16 commission may establish a probationary period of certification.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A corrections officer's certification lapses 17 automatically when there is a break of more than twenty-four 18 consecutive months in the officer's service as a full-time corrections 19 officer. A break in full-time corrections service which is due solely 20 21 to the pendency of direct review or appeal from a disciplinary discharge, or to the pendency of a work-related injury, does not cause 22 23 a lapse in certification. The officer may petition the commission for 24 reinstatement of certification. Upon receipt of a petition for reinstatement of a lapsed certificate, the commission shall determine 25 26 under this chapter and any applicable rules of the commission if the corrections officer's certification status is to be reinstated, and the 27 commission shall also determine any requirements which the officer must 28 29 meet for reinstatement. The commission may adopt rules establishing 30 requirements for reinstatement.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. Upon termination of a corrections officer for any reason, including resignation, the agency of termination shall, within fifteen days of the termination, notify the commission on a personnel action report form provided by the commission. The agency of termination shall, upon request of the commission, provide such additional documentation or information as the commission deems

necessary to determine whether the termination provides grounds for
 revocation under section 4 of this act. The commission shall maintain
 these notices in a permanent file, subject to RCW 43.101.400.

Agencies employing state juvenile services personnel who are exempt from the certification requirements of this chapter shall provide the same termination information to assist the commission in oversight of certified corrections officers.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. A corrections officer or duly authorized 8 representative of a corrections agency may submit a written complaint 9 to the commission charging that a corrections officer's certificate 10 11 should be denied or revoked, and specifying the grounds for the charge. 12 Filing a complaint does not make a complainant a party to the commission's action. The commission has sole discretion whether to 13 investigate a complaint, and the commission has sole discretion whether 14 relating to certification, 15 to investigate matters denial of 16 certification, or revocation of certification on any other basis, 17 without restriction as to the source or the existence of a complaint. A person who files a complaint in good faith under this section is 18 immune from suit or any civil action related to the filing or the 19 20 contents of the complaint.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. (1) If the commission determines, upon 21 22 investigation, that there is probable cause to believe that а 23 corrections officer's certification should be denied or revoked under section 4 of this act, the commission must prepare and serve upon the 24 officer a statement of charges. Service on the officer must be by mail 25 or by personal service on the officer. Notice of the charges must also 26 be mailed to or otherwise served upon the officer's agency of 27 termination and any current corrections employer. 28 The statement of 29 charges must be accompanied by a notice that to receive a hearing on 30 the denial or revocation, the officer must, within sixty days of communication of the statement of charges, request a hearing before the 31 hearings board appointed under RCW 43.101.380. Failure of the officer 32 to request a hearing within the sixty-day period constitutes a default, 33 34 whereupon the commission may enter an order under RCW 34.05.440.

35 (2) If a hearing is requested, the date of the hearing must be 36 scheduled not earlier than ninety days nor later than one hundred

eighty days after communication of the statement of charges to the officer; the one hundred eighty-day period may be extended on mutual agreement of the parties or for good cause. The commission shall give written notice of hearing at least twenty days prior to the hearing, specifying the time, date, and place of hearing.

6 **Sec. 10.** RCW 43.101.380 and 2001 c 167 s 10 are each amended to 7 read as follows:

8 (1) The procedures governing adjudicative proceedings before 9 agencies under chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act, 10 govern hearings before the commission and govern all other actions 11 before the commission unless otherwise provided in this chapter. The 12 standard of proof in actions before the commission is clear, cogent, 13 and convincing evidence.

(2) ((On all appeals brought)) In all hearings requested under RCW 14 15 43.101.155 or section 9 of this act, a five-member hearings panel shall 16 both hear the case and make the commission's final administrative Members of the commission  $((\mathbf{or}))_{\perp}$  the board on law 17 decision. enforcement training standards and education, or the board on 18 corrections training standards and education, may but need not be 19 20 appointed to the hearings panels. The commission shall appoint as 21 follows two or more panels to hear ((appeals from)) decertification 22 actions:

(a) When ((an appeal)) <u>a hearing</u> is ((filed)) <u>requested</u> in relation 23 24 to decertification of a Washington peace officer who is not a peace 25 officer of the Washington state patrol, the commission shall appoint to 26 the panel: (i) One police chief; (ii) one sheriff; (iii) two peace officers who are at or below the level of first line supervisor, who 27 are from city or county law enforcement agencies, and who have at least 28 29 ten years' experience as peace officers; and (iv) one person who is not 30 currently a peace officer and who represents a community college or 31 four-year college or university.

(b) When ((an appeal)) <u>a hearing</u> is ((filed)) <u>requested</u> in relation to decertification of a peace officer of the Washington state patrol, the commission shall appoint to the panel: (i) Either one police chief or one sheriff; (ii) one administrator of the state patrol; (iii) one peace officer who is at or below the level of first line supervisor, who is from a city or county law enforcement agency, and who has at

least ten years' experience as a peace officer; (iv) one state patrol officer who is at or below the level of first line supervisor, and who has at least ten years' experience as a peace officer; and (v) one person who is not currently a peace officer and who represents a community college or four-year college or university.

(c) When a hearing is requested in relation to decertification of 6 a Washington corrections officer, the commission shall appoint to the 7 panel: (i) Two heads of either a city or county corrections agency or 8 facility or of a Washington state department of corrections facility; 9 (ii) two corrections officers who are at or below the level of first 10 line supervisor, who are from city, county, or state corrections 11 12 agencies, and who have at least ten years' experience as corrections 13 officers; and (iii) one person who is not currently a corrections officer and who represents a community college or four-year college or 14 <u>university.</u> 15

16 (d) Persons appointed to hearings panels by the commission shall, 17 in relation to any decertification matter on which they sit, have the 18 powers, duties, and immunities, and are entitled to the emoluments, 19 including travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 20 43.03.060, of regular commission members.

21 (3) Where the charge upon which revocation or denial is based is 22 that a peace officer or corrections officer was "discharged for disqualifying misconduct," and the discharge is "final," within the 23 meaning of RCW 43.101.105(4) or section 4(4) of this act, and the 24 officer received a civil service hearing or arbitration hearing 25 culminating in an affirming decision following separation from service 26 27 by the employer, the hearings panel may revoke or deny certification if the hearings panel determines that the discharge occurred and was based 28 on disqualifying misconduct; the hearings panel need not redetermine 29 the underlying facts but may make this determination based solely on 30 review of the records and decision relating to the employment 31 32 separation proceeding. However, the hearings panel may, in its discretion, consider additional evidence to determine whether such a 33 discharge occurred and was based on such disqualifying misconduct. The 34 35 hearings panel shall, upon written request by the subject peace officer 36 or corrections officer, allow the peace officer or corrections officer 37 to present additional evidence of extenuating circumstances.

Where the charge upon which revocation or denial of certification 1 2 is based is that a peace officer or corrections officer "has been convicted at any time of a felony offense" within the meaning of RCW 3 43.101.105(3) or section 4(3) of this act, the hearings panel shall 4 revoke or deny certification if it determines that the peace officer or 5 corrections officer was convicted of a felony. The hearings panel need 6 not redetermine the underlying facts but may make this determination 7 based solely on review of the records and decision relating to the 8 criminal proceeding. However, the hearings panel shall, upon the 9 panel's determination of relevancy, consider additional evidence to 10 determine whether the peace officer or corrections officer was 11 convicted of a felony. 12

Where the charge upon which revocation or denial is based is under RCW 43.101.105 (1), (2), (5), or (6) <u>or section 4(1), (2), (5), or (6)</u> <u>of this act</u>, the hearings panel shall determine the underlying facts relating to the charge upon which revocation or denial of certification is based.

(4) The commission's final administrative decision is subject tojudicial review under RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598.

20 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. **11.** An individual whose peace officer certification is denied or revoked pursuant to this chapter may not 21 thereafter be certified as a corrections officer without first 22 23 satisfying the requirements of eligibility for certification or 24 reinstatement of certification. A corrections officer whose corrections officer certification is denied or revoked pursuant to this 25 26 chapter may not thereafter be certified as a peace officer without first satisfying the requirements of eligibility for certification or 27 reinstatement of certification. 28

29 Sec. 12. RCW 43.101.400 and 2001 c 167 s 12 are each amended to 30 read as follows:

(1) Except as provided under subsection (2) of this section, the following records of the commission are confidential and exempt from public disclosure: (a) The contents of personnel action reports filed under RCW 43.101.135 or section 7 of this act; (b) all files, papers, and other information obtained by the commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.095(3) or section 3 of this act; and (c) all investigative files

of the commission compiled in carrying out the responsibilities of the commission under this chapter. Such records are not subject to public disclosure, subpoena, or discovery proceedings in any civil action, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(2) Records which are otherwise confidential and exempt under 5 subsection (1) of this section may be reviewed and copied: (a) By the б 7 officer involved or the officer's counsel or authorized representative, who may review the officer's file and may submit any additional 8 exculpatory or explanatory evidence, statements, or other information, 9 any of which must be included in the file; (b) by a duly authorized 10 representative of (i) the agency of termination, or (ii) a current 11 12 employing law enforcement or corrections agency, which may review and 13 copy its employee-officer's file; or (c) by a representative of or 14 investigator for the commission.

(3) Records which are otherwise confidential and exempt under 15 subsection (1) of this section may also be inspected at the offices of 16 17 the commission by a duly authorized representative of a law enforcement or corrections agency considering an application for employment by a 18 person who is the subject of a record. A copy of records which are 19 otherwise confidential and exempt under subsection (1) of this section 20 21 may later be obtained by an agency after it hires the applicant. In 22 all other cases under this subsection, the agency may not obtain a copy 23 of the record.

(4) Upon a determination that a complaint is without merit, that a personnel action report filed under RCW 43.101.135 does not merit action by the commission, or that a matter otherwise investigated by the commission does not merit action, the commission shall purge records addressed in subsection (1) of this section.

(5) The hearings, but not the deliberations, of the hearings board are open to the public. The transcripts, admitted evidence, and written decisions of the hearings board on behalf of the commission are not confidential or exempt from public disclosure, and are subject to subpoena and discovery proceedings in civil actions.

(6) Every individual, legal entity, and agency of federal, state,
 or local government is immune from civil liability, whether direct or
 derivative, for providing information to the commission in good faith.

1 Sec. 13. RCW 43.101.030 and 1999 c 97 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The commission shall consist of ((fourteen)) fifteen members, who
4 shall be selected as follows:

5 (1) The governor shall appoint two incumbent sheriffs and two 6 incumbent chiefs of police.

7 (2) The governor shall appoint one officer at or below the level of 8 first line supervisor from a county law enforcement agency ((and)), one 9 officer at or below the level of first line supervisor from a municipal 10 law enforcement agency, and one corrections officer at or below the 11 <u>level of first line supervisor</u>. Each appointee under this subsection 12 (2) shall have at least ten years experience as a law enforcement 13 officer.

14 (3) The governor shall appoint one person employed in a county 15 correctional system and one person employed in the state correctional 16 system.

17 (4) The governor shall appoint one incumbent county prosecuting18 attorney or municipal attorney.

19 (5) The governor shall appoint one elected official of a local 20 government.

21 (6) The governor shall appoint one private citizen.

22 (7) The three remaining members shall be:

23 (a) The attorney general;

(b) The special agent in charge of the Seattle office of thefederal bureau of investigation; and

26 (c) The chief of the state patrol.

27 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 14. If any provision of this act or its 28 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the 29 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other 30 persons or circumstances is not affected.

31 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 15. Sections 3 through 9 and 11 of this act are 32 each added to chapter 43.101 RCW.

33 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 16. This act takes effect January 1, 2006.

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