
SENATE BILL 6320

State of Washington

59th Legislature

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By Senators Regala, Brandland, Franklin, Doumit, Rasmussen, Carrell, Haugen, Pridemore, Kline, Stevens, Keiser, Berkey, Thibaudeau, Jacobsen, Pflug, Sheldon, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Roach and Benton

Read first time 01/11/2006. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to a model policy for disclosure of sex offender
2 information; amending RCW 4.24.5501; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 4.24.5501 and 1997 c 364 s 6 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) (~~By December 1, 1997~~) When funded, the Washington association
7 of sheriffs and police chiefs shall convene a sex offender model policy
8 work group to develop a model policy for law enforcement agencies (~~to~~
9 ~~follow when they disclose information about sex offenders to the public~~
10 ~~under RCW 4.24.550. The model policy shall be designed to further the~~
11 ~~objectives of providing adequate notice to the community concerning sex~~
12 ~~offenders who are or will be residing in the community and of assisting~~
13 ~~community members in developing constructive plans to prepare~~
14 ~~themselves and their children for residing near released sex~~
15 ~~offenders)) and other criminal justice personnel. The model policy
16 shall provide guidelines for sex offender registration, community
17 notification, and strategies for sex offender management.~~

18 (2) In developing the policy, the association shall consult with
19 representatives of the following agencies and professions: (a) The

1 department of corrections; (b) the department of social and health
2 services; (c) the indeterminate sentence review board; (d) the
3 Washington state council of police officers; (e) local correctional
4 agencies; (f) the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys; (g)
5 the Washington public defender association; (h) the Washington
6 association for the treatment of sexual abusers; and (i) victim
7 advocates.

8 The sex offender model policy work group, once convened, shall
9 first conduct a series of community meetings around the state to assess
10 the practices and needs of communities, identify best practices on sex
11 offender registration, community notification, and strategies for sex
12 offender management. Once the sex offender model policy work group has
13 received input from stakeholders on a final draft of the model policy,
14 the policy shall be presented to the Washington association of sheriffs
15 and police chiefs for adoption or rejection. Following the adoption of
16 a model policy, the sex offender model policy work group shall conduct
17 a series of meetings around the state with local law enforcement
18 agencies and other criminal justice personnel to review the model
19 policy and conduct training as needed. The sex offender model policy
20 work group shall then be dissolved, and, when funded, the Washington
21 association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall be responsible for the
22 continued promotion of the model policy, including annual or biennial
23 regional workshops with local law enforcement agencies and other
24 criminal justice personnel to encourage sex offender registration,
25 community notification, and strategies for sex offender management
26 policies and practices that best fit the needs, characteristics, and
27 risks of each community.

28 (3) The model policy shall, at a minimum, include recommendations
29 to address the following issues: (a) Procedures for local agencies or
30 officials to accomplish the notifications required under RCW
31 4.24.550(~~(+8)~~) (10), including the identification of best practices
32 for community notification, as they relate to the specific needs and
33 characteristics to each community and the risk posed to that community;
34 (b) contents and form of community notification documents, including
35 procedures for ensuring the accuracy of factual information contained
36 in the notification documents, and ways of protecting the privacy of
37 victims of the offenders' crimes; (c) methods of distributing community
38 notification documents; (d) methods of providing follow-up

1 notifications to community residents at specified intervals and of
2 disclosing information about offenders to law enforcement agencies in
3 other jurisdictions if necessary to protect the public; (e) methods of
4 educating community residents at public meetings on how they can use
5 the information in the notification document in a reasonable manner to
6 enhance their individual and collective safety; (f) procedures for
7 educating community members regarding the right of sex offenders not to
8 be the subject of harassment or criminal acts as a result of the
9 notification process; (~~and~~) (g) procedures and documents for local
10 law enforcement agencies to provide appropriate notification when a sex
11 offender risk level is reclassified, including strategies to monitor
12 the reclassification of sex offender risk levels by local law
13 enforcement agencies; (h) formulas and instructions on standard sex
14 offender risk assessment instruments; (i) strategies for sex offender
15 management; and (j) other matters the Washington association of
16 sheriffs and police chiefs deems necessary ((to ensure the effective
17 and fair administration of RCW 4.24.550)) as it relates to sex offender
18 registration, community notification, and management.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. If specific funding for the purposes of this
20 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
21 June 30, 2006, in the supplemental omnibus appropriations act, this act
22 is null and void.

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