

SSB 5987 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

ADOPTED 04/03/2007

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

3       "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the people of  
4 Washington state face a crisis brought upon by increased gang crime and  
5 violence, which is threatening public safety in communities across the  
6 state. Those who live in communities where gang membership is on the  
7 rise find themselves living with the daily threat of intimidation and  
8 harassment. Ordinary citizens are increasingly vulnerable to  
9 gang-related crimes such as drug dealing, damage to real property,  
10 theft of personal property and automobiles, or even assault, rape, and  
11 murder. Even those not directly affected by gang-related crime, share  
12 in the indirect costs such as lower property values, higher insurance  
13 premiums, and the endangerment of our youth. Moreover, our first  
14 responders find themselves increasingly vulnerable to personal injury  
15 or death when responding to gang-related crimes such as drug dealing,  
16 assault, driving without a license, or attempting to elude a police  
17 vehicle.

18       It is the intent of the legislature to establish a work group to  
19 evaluate and make legislative recommendations regarding the problem of  
20 gang-related crime in Washington state.

21       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington association of sheriffs and  
22 police chiefs is directed to convene a work group to evaluate the  
23 problem of gang-related crime in Washington state. Members shall  
24 include one member from each of the two largest caucuses in the house  
25 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
26 representatives, one member from each of the two largest caucuses in  
27 the senate, appointed by the president of the senate, and  
28 representatives of the following, appointed jointly by the president of  
29 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives: The office

1 of the attorney general, local law enforcement, prosecutors and  
2 municipal attorneys, criminal defense attorneys, court administrators,  
3 prison or detention administrators and probation officers, and experts  
4 in gang or delinquency prevention including the governor's juvenile  
5 justice advisory committee. The work group shall evaluate and make  
6 recommendations regarding additional legislative measures to combat  
7 gang-related crime, the creation of a statewide gang information  
8 database, possible reforms to the juvenile justice system for  
9 gang-related juvenile offenses, best practices for prevention and  
10 intervention of youth gang membership, and the adoption of legislation  
11 authorizing a civil antigang injunction. The Washington association of  
12 sheriffs and police chiefs shall report back to the legislature on its  
13 findings and the recommendations of the work group or groups on or  
14 before January 1, 2008."

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