
**Public Safety & Emergency
Preparedness Committee**

HB 2569

Brief Description: Providing funding to local government for purposes of registered sex and kidnapping offender address verification and community notification.

Sponsors: Representatives Dickerson, O'Brien, Lantz, Takko, Williams, Seaquist, Morrell, Ormsby, Liias, Miloscia, Hurst, McIntire, Kenney, Campbell, VanDeWege, Barlow, Green and Simpson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Appropriates \$5 million to help local law enforcement agencies perform address verification and community notification.

Hearing Date: 1/23/08

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

Under the Community Protection Act of 1990, a sex and kidnapping offender must register with the county sheriff of the county in which he or she resides. This requirement also applies to offenders convicted of sex and kidnapping offenses in other states who subsequently move to Washington. An offender must provide a variety of information upon registration including name, complete residential address, date and place of birth, place of employment, crime of conviction, date and place of conviction, aliases, Social Security number, photograph, and fingerprints.

Law enforcement agencies are authorized to release information regarding registered sex offenders based on the offenders' risk level. For example, for a risk level I offender (evaluated as presenting the least amount of risk to the larger community), a law enforcement agency may only disclose the offender's information to specified persons and entities; e.g., schools, victims, and witnesses. For a risk level III offender (evaluated as presenting the largest amount of risk to the

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larger community), a law enforcement agency may disclose the offender's information to the public at large.

In addition to community notification, law enforcement agencies are required to make reasonable attempts to verify that an offender is living at his or her registered address. At a minimum, address verification must consist of sending a verification form to the offender's registered address. The form must be sent at least every 90 days for offenders who have been designated as sexually violent predators. For all other offenders, the form must be sent out at least once a year. A law enforcement agency must make reasonable attempts to locate an offender who fails to return the form.

Summary of Bill:

A \$5 million appropriation is made for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2009, from the Public Safety and Education Account to the Criminal Justice Training Commission for purposes of assisting local law enforcement agencies: (a) to verify the addresses and residency of registered sex and kidnapping offenders; and (b) to notify the community of registered sex and kidnapping offenders within their jurisdictions. The funds are to be distributed to the local law enforcement agencies by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

Appropriation: The sum of \$5 million is made for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2009, from the Public Safety and Education Account to the Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.