

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 2892**

Chapter 142, Laws of 2018

65th Legislature  
2018 Regular Session

MENTAL HEALTH FIELD RESPONSE TEAMS PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 7, 2018

Passed by the House March 5, 2018  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2018  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

CYRUS HABIB

**President of the Senate**

Approved March 21, 2018 11:46 AM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 2892** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 23, 2018

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 2892

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **65th Legislature**                      **2018 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Lovick, Hayes, Goodman, Klippert, Tarleton,  
Slatter, McDonald, Frame, and Kloba

Read first time 01/22/18. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1            AN ACT Relating to the mental health field response teams  
2 program; and adding a new section to chapter 36.28A RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6            (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
7 specific purpose, the Washington association of sheriffs and police  
8 chiefs shall develop and implement a mental health field response  
9 grant program. The purpose of the program is to assist local law  
10 enforcement agencies to establish and expand mental health field  
11 response capabilities, utilizing mental health professionals to  
12 professionally, humanely, and safely respond to crises involving  
13 persons with behavioral health issues with treatment, diversion, and  
14 reduced incarceration time as primary goals. A portion of the grant  
15 funds may also be used to develop data management capability to  
16 support the program.

17            (2) Grants must be awarded to local law enforcement agencies  
18 based on locally developed proposals to incorporate mental health  
19 professionals into the agencies' mental health field response  
20 planning and response. Two or more agencies may submit a joint grant  
21 proposal to develop their mental health field response proposals.

1 Proposals must provide a plan for improving mental health field  
2 response and diversion from incarceration through modifying or  
3 expanding law enforcement practices in partnership with mental health  
4 professionals. A peer review panel appointed by the Washington  
5 association of sheriffs and police chiefs in consultation with  
6 integrated managed care organizations and behavioral health  
7 organizations must review the grant applications. Once the Washington  
8 association of sheriffs and police chiefs certifies that the  
9 application satisfies the proposal criteria, the grant funds will be  
10 distributed. To the extent possible, at least one grant recipient  
11 agency should be from the east side of the state and one from the  
12 west side of the state with the crest of the Cascades being the  
13 dividing line. The Washington association of sheriffs and police  
14 chiefs shall make every effort to fund at least eight grants per  
15 fiscal year with funding provided for this purpose from all allowable  
16 sources under this section. The Washington association of sheriffs  
17 and police chiefs may prioritize grant applications that include  
18 local matching funds. Grant recipients must be selected and receiving  
19 funds no later than October 1, 2018.

20 (3) Grant recipients must include at least one mental health  
21 professional who will perform professional services under the plan. A  
22 mental health professional may assist patrolling officers in the  
23 field or in an on-call capacity, provide preventive, follow-up,  
24 training on mental health field response best practices, or other  
25 services at the direction of the local law enforcement agency.  
26 Nothing in this subsection (3) limits the mental health  
27 professional's participation to field patrol. Grant recipients are  
28 encouraged to coordinate with local public safety answering points to  
29 maximize the goals of the program.

30 (4) Within existing resources, the Washington association of  
31 sheriffs and police chiefs shall:

32 (a) Consult with the department of social and health services  
33 research and data analysis unit to establish data collection and  
34 reporting guidelines for grant recipients. The data will be used to  
35 study and evaluate whether the use of mental health field response  
36 programs improves outcomes of interactions with persons experiencing  
37 behavioral health crises, including reducing rates of violence and  
38 harm, reduced arrests, and jail or emergency room usage;

39 (b) Consult with the department of social and health services  
40 behavioral health administration and the managed care system to

1 develop requirements for participating mental health professionals;  
2 and

3 (c) Coordinate with public safety answering points, behavioral  
4 health, and the department of social and health services to develop  
5 and incorporate telephone triage criteria or dispatch protocols to  
6 assist with mental health, law enforcement, and emergency medical  
7 responses involving mental health situations.

8 (5) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs  
9 shall submit an annual report to the governor and appropriate  
10 committees of the legislature on the program. The report must include  
11 information on grant recipients, use of funds, participation of  
12 mental health professionals, and feedback from the grant recipients  
13 by December 1st of each year the program is funded.

14 (6) Grant recipients shall develop and provide or arrange for  
15 training necessary for mental health professionals to operate  
16 successfully and competently in partnership with law enforcement  
17 agencies. The training must provide the professionals with a working  
18 knowledge of law enforcement procedures and tools sufficient to  
19 provide for the safety of the professionals, partnered law  
20 enforcement officers, and members of the public.

21 (7) Nothing in this section prohibits the Washington association  
22 of sheriffs and police chiefs from soliciting or accepting private  
23 funds to support the program created in this section.

Passed by the House March 5, 2018.

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 2018.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 23, 2018.

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