

HB 1159 - H AMD **1659**

By Representative Morgan

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

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4 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 43.330
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The department of commerce shall convene a work group to
7 develop recommendations related to retail loss prevention and
8 enforcement.

9 (2)(a) The work group must include members representing the
10 following interests and entities:

11 (i) Large-scale and small-scale grocers and retail establishments;

12 (ii) Labor unions representing grocery and retail employees;

13 (iii) Loss prevention professionals and persons who provide
14 training for loss prevention professionals;

15 (iv) Retail security experts;

16 (v) Law enforcement;

17 (vi) Organizations representing historically marginalized
18 communities;

19 (vii) The office of the attorney general; and

20 (viii) The human rights commission.

21 (b) The work group must also include four legislative members,
22 including one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
23 senate appointed by the president of the senate, and one member from
24 each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives
25 appointed by the speaker of the house.

26 (3) The work group must:

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1 (a) Examine and make recommendations related to loss prevention
2 protocols and strategies for engagement with persons suspected of
3 theft or attempted theft in retail establishments, including
4 recommending best practices for: Engaging in appropriate and
5 equitable contacts with customers and persons suspected of retail
6 theft; engaging in varying degrees of intervention according to the
7 conduct that is being addressed; employing conflict mitigation
8 strategies; and utilizing trespassing and other processes as an
9 alternative to pursuing arrest and prosecution;

10 (b) Examine and recommend best practices for training of loss
11 prevention professionals including, but not limited to, increasing
12 implicit bias training and training related to appropriate and
13 equitable engagement with customers and persons suspected of retail
14 theft; and

15 (c) Review existing data related to retail theft offenses and
16 identify data gaps that should be addressed through further data
17 collection. The review must include, but is not limited to, an
18 assessment of available data related to the extent to which retail
19 theft arrests and prosecutions involve individual actors versus
20 organized retail theft operations, and data related to the
21 underlying factors that lead persons to engage in retail theft. The
22 work group may request assistance from the administrative office of
23 the courts, the Washington association of sheriffs and police
24 chiefs, and other entities that may have access to relevant data.

25 (4) The department of commerce shall administer and provide
26 staff support for the work group.

27 (5) The work group must report its findings and recommendations
28 to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2020.

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30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Section 1 of this act expires December 1,
31 2021."

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33 Correct the title.

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EFFECT: Removes all provisions of the underlying bill and requires the Department of Commerce to convene a work group to examine and make recommendations related to retail loss prevention and enforcement.

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