

---

**Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry  
Committee**

---

**HB 2177**

**Brief Description:** Concerning the membership and operation of the sex offender policy board.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Simmons and Goodman.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Changes the name of the Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) to the Sex Offense Policy Board.
- Requires the SOPB to facilitate training and team building, and reinstate conferences relevant to sex offense policy development.
- Expands the membership of the SOPB to include 17 voting members representing specified backgrounds, roles, and entities.

**Hearing Date:** 1/16/24

**Staff:** Corey Patton (786-7388).

**Background:**

The Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) is an independent entity staffed and maintained by the Sentencing Guidelines Commission. The SOPB serves to advise the Governor and the Legislature as necessary on issues relating to sex offender management. Upon request by the Governor or the Legislature, the SOPB may also be convened to undertake projects to assist policymakers in making informed judgments about issues relating to sex offender policy, or to conduct case reviews of sex offense incidents to understand performance of the state's sex offender prevention and response systems.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The SOPB consists of 13 voting members as follows:

- the Secretary of the Department of Corrections or his or her designee;
- the Chair of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board or his or her designee;
- the Assistant Secretary of the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration or his or her designee;
- the Director of the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island or his or her designee;
- a representative of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs;
- a representative of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys;
- a representative of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers;
- a representative of the Washington Association for the Treatment of Sex Abusers;
- a representative of the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association;
- a representative of the Washington State Association of Counties;
- a representative of the Association of Washington Cities;
- a representative of the Washington Association of Sexual Assault Programs; and
- a representative of the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy.

### **Summary of Bill:**

The Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) is renamed the Sex Offense Policy Board. The SOPB must facilitate training and team building, and reinstate conferences relevant to sex offense policy development, subject to appropriations. The SOPB must consult with the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) for recommended trauma-informed practices in the selection and participation of any victims appointed as board members.

The membership of the SOPB is expanded to 17 voting members, and the names of certain represented entities are updated, as follows:

- the Secretary of the Department of Corrections or his or her designee;
- the Chair of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board or his or her designee;
- the Assistant Secretary of the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration or his or her designee;
- the Director of the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island or his or her designee;
- a representative of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs;
- a representative of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys;
- a representative of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers;
- a representative of the Washington Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse;
- a representative of the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association;
- a representative of the Washington State Association of Counties;
- a representative of the Association of Washington Cities;
- a representative of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs;
- a representative of the OCVA;
- a representative from a community-based organization advocating for persons convicted of sex offenses, appointed by the Chair of the SOPB and approved by a majority vote of the SOPB's voting membership;

- a representative from a federally recognized Indian tribe in the state, appointed by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs;
- a representative with lived experience with incarceration for a sex offense, appointed by the Chair of the SOPB and approved by a majority vote of the SOPB's voting membership; and
- a representative with lived experience as the victim of a sex offense, appointed by the Chair of the SOPB and approved by a majority vote of the SOPB's voting membership.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 9, 2024.

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