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**HOUSE BILL 2231**

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**State of Washington**                      **68th Legislature**                      **2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Walen, Chapman, Hackney, Springer, and Goodman

Read first time 01/09/24. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to incentivizing cities and counties to attract  
2 and retain commissioned law enforcement officers; reenacting and  
3 amending RCW 43.101.200; adding new sections to chapter 82.14 RCW;  
4 and creating a new section.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) The law enforcement profession is  
7 challenging both physically and mentally, and coupled with the  
8 coronavirus pandemic and other significant events that have occurred  
9 in recent years that have rapidly changed and shifted community  
10 expectations of police, attraction and retention of law enforcement  
11 officers has become increasingly difficult. The United States  
12 department of justice issued a report in October 2023, with  
13 strategies aimed at helping law enforcement agencies increase the  
14 number of law enforcement officers. The department of justice report  
15 cited a 2023 report from the police executive research forum that  
16 showed that police agencies are facing a historic crisis in hiring  
17 and retaining law enforcement staff.

18            (2) The legislature recognizes the need for attracting and  
19 retaining additional law enforcement officers in Washington. To  
20 address this need, the legislature intends to authorize counties and  
21 cities to impose a sales and use tax as a credit against the state

1 sales and use tax to provide funding for attracting and retaining law  
2 enforcement officers throughout the state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.14  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) (a) In accordance with the timeline established in section 3  
6 of this act, a county or city legislative authority may impose a  
7 sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The  
8 rate of tax under this section is 0.10 percent of the selling price,  
9 in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case  
10 of a use tax.

11 (b) For a city imposing the sales and use tax under this section,  
12 if the county in which the city is located also imposes the tax, the  
13 city sales and use tax must be credited against the county tax.

14 (2) The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any  
15 other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those  
16 persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12  
17 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The  
18 tax authorized under this section is a credit against the state tax  
19 under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department must perform the  
20 collection of such taxes on behalf of the county or city at no cost  
21 to the county or city and the state treasurer must remit the tax to  
22 the jurisdiction as provided in RCW 82.14.060.

23 (3) (a) Subject to (b) of this subsection, at least 50 percent of  
24 the money received under this section must be used solely for  
25 attracting and retaining additional commissioned law enforcement  
26 officers.

27 (b) The remaining percentage of the money received under this  
28 section in the current calendar year may be used for criminal justice  
29 purposes.

30 (4) For the purposes of this section, "criminal justice purposes"  
31 means activities that substantially assist the criminal justice  
32 system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to  
33 the civil justice system occurs, and which includes domestic violence  
34 services such as those provided by domestic violence programs,  
35 community advocates, and legal advocates, as defined in RCW  
36 70.123.020. After May 13, 2021, through December 31, 2024, criminal  
37 justice purposes includes local government programs that have a  
38 reasonable relationship to reducing the number of people interacting

1 with the criminal justice system including, but not limited to,  
2 reducing homelessness and improving behavioral health.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 82.14  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 Counties and cities may impose the sales and use tax authorized  
6 in section 2 of this act as follows:

7 (1) By January 1, 2025, all counties and cities with a population  
8 of 50,000 or less may impose the sales and use tax.

9 (2) By January 1, 2027, all counties and cities with a population  
10 between 50,000 and 175,000 may impose the sales and use tax.

11 (3) By January 1, 2029, all counties and cities may impose the  
12 sales and use tax.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.101.200 and 2023 c 475 s 931 and 2023 c 168 s 2  
14 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

15 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, all law  
16 enforcement personnel, except volunteers, and reserve officers  
17 whether paid or unpaid, initially employed on or after January 1,  
18 1978, shall engage in basic law enforcement training which complies  
19 with standards adopted by the commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.080.  
20 For personnel initially employed before January 1, 1990, such  
21 training shall be successfully completed during the first fifteen  
22 months of employment of such personnel unless otherwise extended or  
23 waived by the commission and shall be requisite to the continuation  
24 of such employment. Personnel initially employed on or after January  
25 1, 1990, shall commence basic training during the first six months of  
26 employment unless the basic training requirement is otherwise waived  
27 or extended by the commission. Successful completion of basic  
28 training is requisite to the continuation of employment of such  
29 personnel initially employed on or after January 1, 1990.

30 (2)(a) All law enforcement personnel who are limited authority  
31 Washington peace officers and whose employment commences on or after  
32 July 1, 2023, shall commence basic training during the first 12  
33 months of employment unless the basic training requirement is  
34 otherwise waived or extended by the commission. Successful completion  
35 of basic training is requisite to the continuation of employment of  
36 such personnel initially employed on or after July 1, 2023.

37 (b)(i) The commission shall review the training files of all law  
38 enforcement personnel who are limited authority Washington peace

1 officers, whose employment commenced prior to July 1, 2023, and who  
2 have not successfully completed training that complies with standards  
3 adopted by the commission, to determine what, if any, supplemental  
4 training is required to appropriately carry out the officers' duties  
5 and responsibilities.

6 (ii) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to require law  
7 enforcement personnel who are limited authority Washington peace  
8 officers, whose employment commenced prior to July 1, 2023, to  
9 complete the basic law enforcement training academy as a condition of  
10 continuing employment as a limited authority Washington peace  
11 officer.

12 (iii) Law enforcement personnel who are limited authority  
13 Washington peace officers are not required to complete the basic law  
14 enforcement academy or an equivalent basic academy upon transferring  
15 to a general authority Washington law enforcement agency or limited  
16 authority Washington law enforcement agency, as defined in RCW  
17 10.93.020, if they have:

18 (A) Been employed as a special agent with the Washington state  
19 gambling commission, been a natural resource investigator with the  
20 department of natural resources, been a liquor enforcement officer  
21 with the liquor and cannabis board, been an investigator with the  
22 office of the insurance commissioner, or been a park ranger with the  
23 Washington state parks and recreation commission, before or after  
24 July 1, 2023; and

25 (B) Received a certificate of successful completion from the  
26 basic law enforcement academy or the basic law enforcement  
27 equivalency academy and thereafter engaged in regular and  
28 commissioned law enforcement employment with an agency listed in  
29 (b)(iii)(A) of this subsection without a break or interruption in  
30 excess of 24 months; and

31 (C) Remained current with the in-service training requirements as  
32 adopted by the commission by rule.

33 (3) Except as provided in RCW 43.101.170, the commission shall  
34 provide the aforementioned training and shall have the sole authority  
35 to do so. The commission shall provide necessary facilities,  
36 supplies, materials, and the board and room of noncommuting attendees  
37 for seven days per week(~~(, except during the 2017-2019, 2019-2021,~~  
38 ~~2021-2023, and 2023-2025 fiscal biennia when the employing, county,~~  
39 ~~city, or state law enforcement agency shall reimburse the commission~~  
40 ~~for twenty-five percent of the cost of training its personnel)).~~

1 Additionally, to the extent funds are provided for this purpose, the  
2 commission shall reimburse to participating law enforcement agencies  
3 with ten or less full-time commissioned patrol officers the cost of  
4 temporary replacement of each officer who is enrolled in basic law  
5 enforcement training: PROVIDED, That such reimbursement shall include  
6 only the actual cost of temporary replacement not to exceed the total  
7 amount of salary and benefits received by the replaced officer during  
8 his or her training period:

9 PROVIDED FURTHER, That limited authority Washington law  
10 enforcement agencies as defined in RCW 10.93.020 shall reimburse the  
11 commission for the full cost of training their personnel.

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