
HOUSE BILL 2015

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Entenman, Reeves, Berg, Morgan, Santos, Pollet, Donaghy, Doglio, Salahuddin, Chase, Obras, Parshley, Walen, Stearns, and Thai

Read first time 02/21/25. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving public safety funding by providing
2 resources to local governments and state and local criminal justice
3 agencies, and authorizing a local option tax; adding new sections to
4 chapter 82.14 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 43.101 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 82.14
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The supplemental criminal justice account is created in the
9 state treasury.

10 (2) At the beginning of each quarter, the state treasurer must
11 distribute the funds appropriated to the account to qualified cities
12 and counties based on the following per capita formula:

13 (a) The amount appropriated into the account in the biennial
14 budget for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium divided by eight;

15 (b) The amount in (a) of this subsection divided by the total
16 population of all qualified cities and counties for the quarter
17 combined; and

18 (c) The per person amount calculated in (b) of this subsection by
19 the population of each qualified city or county.

20 (3) For the purposes of this section, "qualified city or county"
21 means a city or county that imposes the tax in section 3 of this act

1 and is approved for a grant in section 2 of this act. The criminal
2 justice training commission must transmit a list of cities and
3 counties approved for grants to the state treasurer at least four
4 weeks before the end of a quarter.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.101
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 specific purpose, the commission shall develop and implement a local
9 law enforcement grant program for the purpose of providing direct
10 support to local and tribal law enforcement agencies in hiring,
11 retaining, and training law enforcement officers to increase
12 community policing and public safety. Under this section, the
13 commission shall:

14 (a) Establish procedures and policies for submitting the grant
15 applications and publish them on the commission's website;

16 (b) Publish the criteria for evaluating and selecting grant
17 recipients described in subsection (2) of this section on the
18 commission's website;

19 (c) Create a grant application form that local and tribal law
20 enforcement agencies must use to apply for grant funding; and

21 (d) Require reports from grant recipients that must include, but
22 is not limited to, how the funding impacts retention rates and
23 improved vacancy rates, and the percent of officer compliance with
24 the commission's 40-hour crisis intervention team training and
25 trauma-informed training approved by the commission.

26 (2) The grants under the local law enforcement grant program must
27 be awarded to local and tribal law enforcement agencies based on
28 their submittals to the commission. To qualify for a grant pursuant
29 to this section, a law enforcement agency must have:

30 (a) Written and published policies consistent with RCW 43.17.425
31 and 10.93.160, and the office of the attorney general's keep
32 Washington working act guide, model policies, and training
33 recommendations for state and local law enforcement agencies;

34 (b) Written and published policies in compliance with all
35 commission and attorney general model policies for law enforcement
36 including, but not limited to, use of force, duty to intervene, and
37 canine;

1 (c) Written and published policies and practices related to laws
2 addressing firearm relinquishment pursuant to court orders and
3 domestic violence 911 response requirements;

4 (d) 80 percent officer compliance rate with the commission's 40-
5 hour crisis intervention team training;

6 (e) 100 percent officer compliance rate with trauma-informed
7 training approved by the commission;

8 (f) Disclosed the number of vacancies at the applying agency as
9 of the time of application; and

10 (g) Imposed the tax authorized in section 3 of this act within
11 the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.

12 (3) Grant funding awarded to local and tribal law enforcement
13 agencies may only be used for the purposes of:

14 (a) Recruiting new law enforcement officers from the community in
15 which the officer will be working;

16 (b) Providing retention bonuses to newly recruited local law
17 enforcement officers;

18 (c) Funding use of force, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and
19 trauma-informed trainings for newly hired officers to remain in
20 compliance with the commission's required trainings; and

21 (d) Funding broader law enforcement and public safety efforts
22 including, but not limited to, emergency management planning,
23 environmental hazard mitigations, security personnel, community
24 outreach and assistance programs, and mental health crisis response.

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

27 (1) By June 30, 2027, the legislative authority of any city or
28 county may fix and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the
29 terms of this chapter. The tax authorized in this section is in
30 addition to any other taxes authorized by law and must be collected
31 from those persons who are taxable by the state pursuant to chapters
32 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within
33 such county.

34 (2) The rate of tax equals 0.1 percent of the selling price, in
35 the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of
36 a use tax.

37 (3) Moneys received from the tax imposed under this section must
38 be expended for criminal justice purposes.

1 (4) For purposes of this section, "criminal justice purposes"
2 means activities that substantially assist the criminal justice
3 system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to
4 the civil justice system occurs, and which includes domestic violence
5 services such as those provided by domestic violence programs,
6 community advocates, and legal advocates, as those terms are defined
7 in RCW 70.123.020.

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