

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

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Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington



End of Session Report 2015 1st Special Session

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

This report covers bills passed by the Washington State Legislature during the 2015 1st Special Session (April 29, 2015 – May 28, 2015).

Bills passed by the Legislature are subject to [executive action by the Governor](#).

Unless otherwise noted in the text of the legislation, these bills become effective on August 28, 2015.

Nothing in this report should be interpreted as legal advice. The ‘Short Descriptions’ are a brief summary of the most substantive provisions of a bill. Please reference the actual text of legislation.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description
SHB 1021	Silver alert system	Expands the definition of a “missing endangered person” within the Missing Children or Endangered Person Advisory Program to include vulnerable adults and other persons with Alzheimer’s disease or other age-related dementia. Creates a “silver alert” designation within the Missing Children or Endangered Persons’ Advisory Program for missing endangered persons age 60 or older.
2E2SSB 5177 (HB 1597)	Forensic mental health services	DSHS must work with counties and courts to develop a screening process to determine which individuals are safe to receive competency restoration treatment outside the state hospitals. Within 24 hours of the signing of a court order related to competency to stand trial, the clerk of court, prosecuting attorney, and jail administrator (if applicable) must provide specified documents, court records, and medical clearance information to the state hospital. City and county jails must transport a defendant to a state hospital within one day of receipt of an offer of admission for the defendant for competency services and must cooperate with competency evaluators and DSHS to provide reasonable, timely, and appropriate access to defendants for the purpose of performing competency evaluations. Defendants receiving competency restoration treatment in a city or county jail may interact with jail staff. The expiration date of DSHS’ obligation to

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reimburse counties for the cost of appointing local experts to perform competency evaluations under certain circumstances, which are expanded, is extended three years until June 30, 2019. A prosecutor may dismiss any charges when competency to stand trial is raised and refer the defendant for an assessment for services, but only if the defendant does not have a current charge or prior conviction for a violent offense, sex offense, or certain forms of assault in the third degree. The Administrative Office of the Courts must develop standard forms for court orders related to civil commitment and competency to stand trial and must convene a court video testimony work group. Various emergency clauses establish different effective dates for different sections of the bill.
