

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

As approved by the WASPC membership during the 2016 Fall Conference in Chelan

LAW AND JUSTICE DAY

FEBRUARY 7, 2017 • 9:00 AM • COLUMBIA ROOM

Re-Instate a Version of the Public Safety Education Account (PSEA)

Since the elimination of the Public Safety Education Account (PSEA) in 2009, necessary funding for important public safety programs has suffered, and continues to be subject to economic and budget pressures and competing political interests of the state legislature. While local criminal justice systems contribution nearly \$100 million per year in state general fund revenues, newly hired law enforcement and corrections officers are unable to enroll in state-mandated basic training, rapidly declining auto-theft funds are being diverted to pay for programs such as school mapping and a

jail booking and reporting system, and other important public safety programs struggle due to financial constraints.

Re-dedicating certain state revenues to support important public safety programs in a dedicated, non-appropriated account will help ensure that these essential government functions operate at an effective level.

NET FISCAL IMPACT

FY18-FY21: \$19.5M/FY

FY22 Forward: \$47.5M/FY

Provide Funding to Combat Criminal Street Gangs

In 2008, the Legislature directed that a statewide criminal street gang database be developed. Since that time, WASPC has partnered with federal agencies to coordinate and develop such a database, including strict training and operational requirements to ensure the protection of privacy and civil rights, and this database is now operational. \$500,000 in one-time funding is needed to properly review existing local and regional gang database entries for population into the new database according to these strict training and operational requirements.

Additionally, \$150,000 in one-time funding is sought for by the Department of Social and Health Services' Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration to review state and local juvenile firearm data to help identify root causes and identify protecting and predictive factors associated with juvenile firearm offenses.

Finally, \$100,000 in additional ongoing funding is sought to bolster existing criminal street gang prevention and intervention efforts by the Department of Social and Health Services' Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration.

STRATEGIC LEGISLATIVE GOALS:

- *Improve the State's Mental Health System*
- *Increase capacity for forensic DNA testing at the WSP Criminal Laboratory System*
- *Address Unintended Consequences of the Public Records Act*
- *Ensure Sufficient Funding for Statewide Law Enforcement Programs such as Victim Notification, Jail Booking and Reporting System, Sex Offender Address Verification, Uniform Crime Reporting, and Auto Theft Prevention Authority Task Forces*

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About WASPC

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. Our membership includes sheriffs, police chiefs, the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of other number of state and federal agencies. WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, university and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal of public safety.

In 1975, the Washington State Legislature recognized WASPC as a “combination of units of local government.” Soon thereafter, the Legislature began providing funding to WASPC to conduct certain state government functions related to public safety, beginning with crime statistics and reporting. Having proven time and again that WASPC can operate certain state public safety programs more efficiently and effectively than state agencies, the Legislature has continued to ask WASPC to operate a growing programs on behalf of the state. These programs include:

Crime Statistics & Reporting—WASPC collects crime data and publishes an annual ‘**Crime in Washington**’ report, which also serves as **Washington’s depository for reporting to the FBI’s** National Incident Based Reporting System and the FBI’s annual ‘Crime in the United States’ report.

Sex Offender Management—WASPC administers **Washington’s statewide sex offender website**, administers funding for the **sex offender address verification** program, and permanent electronic retention and retrieval of **archived sex offender records**.

Auto Theft Prevention Authority—WASPC manages Washington’s Auto Theft Prevention Authority, which provides coordination and funding for auto theft education, prevention, enforcement, prosecution, and confinement.

Critical Incident Planning and Mapping (aka “school mapping”)—WASPC operates Washington’s first responder database of floor plans, evacuation routes, tactical response plans and other **critical information for Washington’s schools and other critical infrastructure**.

Jail Booking and Reporting—WASPC runs Washington’s statewide jail booking and reporting system. This system is valued as an essential law enforcement database and also provides critical caseload forecasting data.

Crime Victim Notification—WASPC manages Washington’s statewide automated **victim information and notification** system, where victims of crime can register to be notified when their offender is released from incarceration, escapes, is transferred to another facility, or is given a different security classification or custody status.

24/7 Sobriety Monitoring—WASPC operates Washington’s 24/7 Sobriety Program, where DUI offenders submit to at least **twice daily testing for the presence of alcohol** in their system.

Other Essential Programs/Services—WASPC plays a significant role in a number of other public safety programs, including, but not limited to, firearms certification for retired law enforcement officers, administration of the statewide missing persons website, victim notification when a protection order is served, reimbursement of extraordinary criminal justice costs, and creating a number of model policies on topics such as access to private property during wildfires, sex offender management, vehicle pursuits, and more.

WASPC prides itself in the efficiency and effectiveness by which it operates its \$22.7 million biennial funding. WASPC continues to maintain an overall administrative/overhead expense rate of less than 4%. A recent analysis showed that a state agency’s operation of these same programs would cost in excess of \$30 million more per year than the amount provided to WASPC.