



February 8, 2022

Greetings from your Executive Director:

Here are a few updates this week:

Legislative Progress

Three bills we support, SB 5919, HB 2037, and HB 1788 were all passed out of committee. [Here](#) is the hearing on SB 5919. The hearing had strong testimony from Sheriffs and Chiefs as well as Mayors and others.

As I speak with Sheriffs and Chiefs around the state and as the bills move through the legislature, I wanted to share some of the central themes—

1. The main issues are:

- A definition of use of force which is usable and clear
- To allow for reasonable suspicion and investigative detentions to embrace proactive policing
- A “balancing test” while still restricting pursuits, while allowing the rare instance of them so we do not have the “you can just run from the cops with no consequence” environment which is leading to greater danger to the public. Currently, the blanket prohibition on pursuits is sending the message that leads to brazen contempt for the law

2. This is all about justice for victims- we need to balance productive reforms with being able to provide justice for victims

3. Current confusion and lack of support is causing reduced staffing, and we need more, or at least adequate staffing, to carry out de-escalation when possible and achieve the goals of “teaming up and slowing down”.

As we have been doing this session, here is a matrix showing the “lay of the land” on stakeholder positions and testimony, and a link to the testimony itself where applicable.

2022 Session Bill	WASPC	WACOPS	FOP	Assoc Cities	Assoc Counties
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HB 1719 (Military Equip)	H Public Safety (1.11.22)	Testified Pro	Testified Pro	Testified Pro	Testified Pro	No Action
	S Law & Justice (2.8.22)	Testified Pro	Testified PRO(not called)	No Action	Testified Pro	No Action
HB 1726 (Use of Force)	H Public Safety (1.11.22)	Testified Other	No Action	Testified PRO(not called)	Testified Other	No Action
HB 1735 (Use of Force)	H Public Safety (1.11.22)	Testified Other	Testified Other	Testified PRO (not called)	Testified Pro	No Action
	S Law & Justice (2.8.22)	Testified Pro	Testified Other(not called)	Testified Pro	Testified Pro	No Action
HB 1202 (Cause of Action)	H Civil Rights & Judiciary (1.11.22)	Testified Opposed	Signed in Opposed, did not testify	Testified Pro	Testified Opposed	Testified Opposed
HB 1507 (Office of Independent Prosecutions)	H Public Safety (1.13.22)	Testified Opposed	Signed in Opposed, did not testify	Testified Pro (1 of 2) Testified Pro (2 of 2)	Signed in Pro, did not testify	No Action
HB 1690 – Deceptive Interrogation Techniques	H Public Safety (1.14.22)	Testified Opposed	No Action	No Action	No Action	No Action
HB 1788 – Vehicular Pursuits	H Public Safety (1.18.22)	Testified Pro	Signed in Pro, did not testify	No Action	No Action	No Action
HB 2037 – Use of Force	H Public Safety (1.25.22)	Testified Pro (not called)	Testified Opposed (not called)	Testified Pro (not called)	Testified Pro	No Action
SB 5919 – Vehicular Pursuits & Use of Force	S Law & Justice (2.1.22)	Testified Pro	Testified Other	Testified Pro	No Action	No Action
SB 5485 – Traffic Stops	S Transportation (2.3.22)	Testified Opposed	Signed in Opposed, did not testify	Signed in Opposed, did not testify	Signed in Opposed, did not testify	No Action

Crime Statistics

More data is coming on the rise in crime and its impact on our communities. The year-end [“Shots Fired” report](#) from the King County Prosecutor’s Office shows that in 2021, “The number of fatal shooting victims (88) was up 54% while the number of nonfatal shooting victims (372) was up 75% over the four-year average.” and the [Seattle Times](#) wrote about these increases, and also [published a column](#) about the urgent need to begin to address them. Seattle P.D. released their [2021 Crime Report](#) that indicates significant increases in shootings and violent crime. Also, we have mentioned

before the 50% increases in statewide auto thefts since the end of July; [here](#) is the year-end data for auto thefts.

Media Coverage

KCPQ-Seattle aired an episode of its program "[Spotlight](#)" about police reform. In the program, Rep. Roger Goodman says, "the word is out on the street that you can just walk away", and Rep. Jesse Johnson says they knew the laws needed fixing the day after they took effect. There are also good interviews with community members who support reform but also see the need for justice for victims. It is a long program and discusses and defines these critical issues well.

Here are a number of links to coverage around the state regarding our members and the need for changes to the laws:

[Police reform bill in state Senate gets backing from law enforcement, resistance from public interest groups \(KPQ Radio\)](#)

[Sheriff discusses jail, legislation, crime at town hall \(Columbia Basin Herald\)](#)

[Police reform laws still impacting Yakima authorities \(KIT Radio\)](#)

[Proposed bill would bring clarification around law enforcement's 'use of force' \(KXLY\)](#)

Finally, retired Bothell Chief Carol Cummings shared this [document](#) she has compiled from the newsletter and other sources that she uses to help communicate about the need for changes. I am sending it along with her permission.

Stay Safe - Steve

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