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**Public Safety & Emergency  
Preparedness Committee**

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**HB 3045**

**Brief Description:** Creating an identity theft unit within the Washington state patrol.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Green, Kelley, Liias, VanDeWege, Loomis, Rolfes, Simpson and Morrell.

<p><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creates an Identity Theft Unit within the Washington State Patrol.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 1/28/08

**Staff:** Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

**Background:**

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is a general authority Washington law enforcement agency that has its primary function the detection and apprehension of persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws in general, as distinguished from a limited authority Washington law enforcement agency. Peace officers completing the basic law enforcement training and employed by the WSP are commissioned to enforce the criminal laws of Washington.

The WSP is made up of the following six main bureaus:

- ***Field Operations Bureau:*** The Field Operations Bureau is comprised of eight districts and the Commercial Vehicle Division. The Field Operations Bureau is primarily responsible for traffic law enforcement, collision investigation, and motorist assists on the state and interstate highways. The Commercial Vehicle Division is responsible for the enforcement of commercial motor vehicle regulations.
- ***Fire Protection Bureau:*** The Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Protection Bureau, provides services to fire districts, government agencies, members of the media, and the general public. These services include: fire incident reporting and data collection, fire code

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review and adoption, construction plan reviews for fire sprinkler and alarm systems, and fire inspections of high risk occupancies housing elderly and vulnerable populations. In addition, the Fire Protection Bureau regulates the fireworks and sprinkler industry through a licensing program.

- *Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau:* The Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau (FLSB) provides a wide range of forensic science expertise to city, county, and state law enforcement officers, assisting agencies at crime scenes, preparing evidence for trial, and providing expert testimony. The FLSB coordinates the efforts of the State's Breath Alcohol Test Program, the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program, six crime laboratories, the Latent Print Laboratory, and the State Toxicology Laboratory.
- *Investigative Services Bureau:* The Investigative Services Bureau consists of five divisions that provide various public services, including: vessel and terminal safety; narcotics investigation and dismantling of clandestine labs; fatality, criminal, and missing children investigations; computer forensics; organized crime intelligence; and public records and records retention.
- *Management Services Bureau:* The Management Services Bureau oversees Budget and Fiscal Services, the Property Management Division, and the Risk Management Division.
- *Technical Services Bureau:* The Technical Services Bureau provides support services and technical systems that the WSP troopers and all other criminal justice officials use on a daily basis. Divisions reporting to the Technical Services Bureau include: the Communications Division, the Criminal Records Division, the Electronic Services Division, the Information Technology Division, and the Property Management Division.

### **Summary of Bill:**

An Identity Theft Unit (unit) is created in the WSP with a total of four state patrol officers dedicated to the unit. The Chief of the WSP may organized the unit at his or her discretion; however, the unit must be responsible for investigating all identity theft cases and any identity theft case that may be in relation to, but not limited to, theft, forgery, cyber crimes, fraud, or criminal impersonation. The unit must assist local jurisdictions in the investigation of identity theft crimes that cross jurisdictional lines or require specialized technical skills.

The unit must study and develop a plan for an effective statewide unit for identity theft to be funded in the 2009-2011 biennium and report its findings to the Legislature by December 31, 2008.

A total of \$300,000 is appropriated to the WSP for purposes of establishing the unit.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 22, 2008.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.