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SENATE BILL 6523

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, McCaslin, Benton, Tom, Swecker, Pridemore, Kauffman, Carrell, Rasmussen, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/17/08. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to establishment of a Washington identity theft  
2 analysis center; adding a new section to chapter 36.28A RCW; creating  
3 a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** Identity theft is an epidemic in Washington  
6 state. Washington consistently ranks among the top ten states for  
7 citizen victimization by identity theft.

8            It is rare that the crime of identity theft does not involve  
9 multiple crimes, such as burglary, drug crimes, and fraud. About two-  
10 thirds of identity theft criminals are habitual offenders who have  
11 prior convictions. Perpetrators of identity theft do not  
12 geographically contain themselves, often infiltrating numerous counties  
13 in search of citizens, merchants, and financial institutions to  
14 victimize.

15            It is essential to establish a central clearinghouse where all  
16 types of information related to identity theft can be deposited,  
17 analyzed, and disseminated to law enforcement and prosecutors. A  
18 central identity theft clearinghouse will increase multijurisdictional

1 investigative and prosecuting efforts, including greater access to and  
2 use of analysts.

3 In 2002, local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in  
4 Washington joined together to develop a new system of intelligence  
5 sharing. The key component of the system is the Washington joint  
6 analytical center (WAJAC), a centralized fusion center serving as a  
7 single point of intelligence collection. Regional intelligence groups  
8 located throughout the state provide a link to line level personnel and  
9 homeland security partners. The purpose of WAJAC is to investigate  
10 crimes with the goal of preventing acts of terrorism.

11 It is the intent of the legislature to create and locate a central  
12 identity theft clearinghouse with WAJAC. This colocation will enhance  
13 the missions of both entities as a result of their ability to share  
14 pertinent information and thus maximize the efforts of law enforcement.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A RCW  
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall  
18 establish the Washington identity theft analysis center (WITAC). It  
19 shall be colocated with the Washington joint analytical center.

20 (2) WITAC is directed to create and maintain a web site accessible  
21 to law enforcement and prosecutors.

22 (a) Subject to chapter 10.97 RCW, the web site shall be a central  
23 repository of information pertaining to identity theft arrests and  
24 convictions.

25 (b) Each local law enforcement agency shall transmit its identity  
26 theft incident reports to WITAC.

27 (c) Information pertaining to identity theft may be contributed by  
28 private parties; however, data shall not be accessible by or  
29 disclosable to private parties.

30 (3)(a) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs  
31 shall provide WITAC with sufficient staff and resources, within funds  
32 appropriated for this purpose, and may accept loans of law enforcement  
33 officers as provided in (b) of this subsection.

34 (b) Law enforcement agencies may assign officers to WITAC for a  
35 minimum term of two years, and WITAC shall train the officers as  
36 analysts. Local law enforcement officers shall be paid by the state  
37 while so employed.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   The sum of . . . . . dollars, or as  
2 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
3 ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the Washington  
4 association of sheriffs and police chiefs to be used for the purposes  
5 of section 2 of this act.

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