
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1759

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Gregerson, and Jinkins)

1 AN ACT Relating to procedures for communicating with crime
2 victims and survivors of crime victims; creating a new section; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of commerce, through
6 the office of crime victims advocacy, must convene and coordinate a
7 work group to examine the practices around the state regarding
8 notification of family members when a person has died from a
9 suspected homicide or other criminal means, and to develop
10 recommendations for providing crime victims and survivors of homicide
11 victims with information about crime victim services.

12 (2) Membership of the work group must include representatives of
13 the following:

14 (a) The office of crime victims advocacy;

15 (b) Law enforcement;

16 (c) Coroners and medical examiners;

17 (d) Prosecutors;

18 (e) Chaplain services;

19 (f) Victim support services;

20 (g) A private citizen who has been directly impacted by the
21 homicide of a family member; and

1 (h) Either through the membership in (a) through (g) of this
2 subsection, or by additional membership, representatives that work
3 directly with local victim notification processes in Whatcom county,
4 Snohomish county, King county, Franklin county, Yakima county, and
5 Grant county.

6 (3) The work group must meet at least twice, in person, for a
7 minimum of eight hours total.

8 (4) The work group must:

9 (a) Gather information regarding the various current processes
10 around the state for family notification of a homicide or death by
11 other criminal means;

12 (b) Identify gaps, if any, in current local processes for family
13 notification; and

14 (c) Generate best practices for family notification including,
15 but not limited to:

16 (i) Identifying who is responsible in a local jurisdiction for
17 providing notification;

18 (ii) Appropriate timelines for notification;

19 (iii) Alternative processes when a family member is suspected of
20 causing the death;

21 (iv) Overcoming language barriers in the notification process;

22 (v) Collaboration between law enforcement and victim services
23 organizations; and

24 (vi) Other best practices recommended by the work group.

25 (5) The work group must additionally develop recommendations for
26 ways in which law enforcement officers responding to the scene of a
27 crime may provide crime victims and survivors of homicide victims
28 with information about crime victim services.

29 (6) The work group must compile a report summarizing the
30 information collected by the work group and its recommendations. The
31 report must be submitted to the governor and the appropriate
32 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2017.

33 (7) This section expires December 1, 2018.

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