

Regional Law Safety & Justice Committee

February 2024 State Legislative Update



1. **Improve public safety** by increasing tools and resources, including local taxing authority, to address auto theft and property crime and to support officer recruitment and retention.

Bill	Description	Status
SB 5056	Creates a special allegation and sentencing enhancement for “habitual property offenders,” <u>at the discretion of the court</u>	Amended in the Senate; 2/20 executive session in the House
SB 5424	Allows general and limited authority Washington law enforcement agencies to adopt flexible work policies <u>and modifies statutory definitions accordingly.</u>	Amended in the Senate; 2/19 executive action taken in the House
SB 6261	Creates penalties for theft of property or equipment used by firefighters or emergency medical service providers	Did <u>not</u> pass out of Senate Rules

2. **Address the behavioral health treatment crisis** by increasing the capacity of the crisis response system and funding local programs that connect individuals with needed care and diversion programs.

Bill	Description	Status
HB 2408	<u>Subject to authorization by the national 988 administrator and the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose</u> Requires the crisis call center system platform used by designated 988 contact hubs to be capable of allowing any crisis line dedicated to the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native persons to receive crisis assistance	Amended in the House; Not currently scheduled for public hearing in the Senate
HB 2247	Addresses behavioral health provider shortages by changing licensing requirements, practice settings and reimbursement requirements for various behavioral health professions <u>and requires the Secretary of Health and make recommendations on changing the health profession disciplining authority by July 1, 2025.</u>	Amended in the House; 2/20 executive session in the Senate
SB 6251	Requires behavioral health administrative service organizations to serve as the primary system coordinators within each of ten regional service areas Authorizes behavioral health administrative service organizations (BHASOs)	Amended in the Senate; 2/21 executive session in the House

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	<u>to develop protocols for optimizing crisis response in the regional service area, including recommending 988 contact hubs that best meet regional needs.</u>	
SB 6295	Creates an enhanced, integrated care approach to provide resources for the highest users of competency services	Did <u>not</u> pass out of Senate Ways & Means