

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

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Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington

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Here is the [current status](#) on what has been called the "**Good Time**" bill we discussed last week.

Many of you reached out to your legislators after we sent out a request earlier this week, and I want to let you know how significant that is, and how much we truly appreciate your assistance. As we mentioned last week, this bill would **increase the presumptive "good time" early release from 33% to 50%**, along with several other changes intended to reduce incarceration and costs to the state. As our Policy Director, James McMahan, said in testimony on this bill, "we do not believe the cost savings are worth the public safety risk."

I am attaching two letters from [WACOPS](#), the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs, and [FOP](#), the Fraternal Order of Police, also opposing this bill. We appreciate our partners from law enforcement labor in their assistance on this issue. We will keep an eye on this and let you know as the session progresses. This is a very important, and very concerning, bill, it is definitely still in play and thanks for your continued attention to it. As this newsletter is being sent, it has been placed on the Senate schedule but it was "skipped" for today.

Also next week, we will be meeting with several records managers around our state to discuss and determine what else we can do to provide answers or assistance with **upcoming changes due to I-1639 and changes from NICS**. We will be sending out the summary for everyone and just want to do what we can to provide support and get answers so you know what is expected of your departments. Be aware that although there is a federal court case that has been filed regarding I-1639, I have not seen any information that would suggest that there will be a decision or anything that may come before the changes on July 1.

I have mentioned this issue in previous newsletters, but here is a reminder that there is a [bill](#) that provides for a **study to provide information about going to a "single point" firearms background check system**. In other words, rather than local agencies conducting background

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checks (which have now been expanded under I-1639) there would be a central "hub" that would conduct the checks, to provide a "one stop shop" for firearms dealers and purchasers. We have discussed this concept at length with our board, and while there are concerns regarding maintaining a local timely connection with information and backgrounds on applicants, there are also potential upsides to the system. We also want to make sure our Sheriffs and Chiefs are included in any planning or changes, no matter what. The study specifically mentions WASPC as well as the State Patrol as possible operators of any potential system, and part of the study is to determine where it should reside. We are not actively seeking it out, but are open to whatever works best for our members and for public safety. This is only a study at this point, and any future changes to the system would be at least a year or two away, if not more.

I have also [attached](#) a letter we sent out this week to all legislators, in conjunction with the Washington Association of Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention, expressing our general and overall concern about the **proliferation of bills expanding access to alcohol and marijuana**. Each year we have seen that there are several bills to allow tasting, selling, or providing at places like farmers markets, fairs, and added retail spaces. These are all "small" increases, but there is an overall cumulative effect as the years go by, and we are just trying to say "slow down a little". We have received positive feedback from several legislators who have said they appreciate our perspective.

Finally, last week in this newsletter we mentioned that many departments are **actively communicating directly with their communities**, rather than through the filter of traditional media or at the whim of social media. This past week, while at the Western States Sheriffs Conference, I had the opportunity to see a presentation from the Douglas County, Colorado, Sheriff about an incident involving a call where a Deputy was shot and killed and several Deputies were injured. The Sheriff said that in the intense media attention that followed the incident, and while his department was going through all the emotional difficulties you would expect, he felt he needed to communicate directly with the community. Here is a link to the [video](#) he sent out directly to the public, and I appreciate how it covers not only the incident itself, but the community's response and how his department is affected.

I share this as an example of how we all continue to learn from each other---

Have a great weekend-

WORK HARD- HAVE FUN- STAY SAFE

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