



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS (WASPC) STATEMENT ON HB 1363 – PURSUITS LEGISLATION

Washington's sheriffs and chiefs are pleased that the House Committee on Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry has passed HB 1363 and it will now be considered by the full House of Representatives. There will be more work to do on this issue and we will continue to work toward a solution that will be approved by the 2023 legislature. This issue has strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

This important legislation will fix the 2021 law that severely limited law enforcement's ability to pursue fleeing suspects. The 2021 law has hampered the investigation of crimes and contributed to increased crime.

We were pleased to see more than 215 community leaders [sign a letter](#) to encourage the legislature to move forward with this measure. They are responsible for public safety in their communities and understand the importance of balancing safety and justice for victims and that pursuits should be rare and necessary. More than 40 business organizations and chambers of commerce have also [signed a letter](#) in support of fixing the law.

We can't allow offenders the advantage over victims and to just drive away. We can, and should, fix the pursuit law to fall in line with Washington State's duty of care standards and enable appropriate discretion for police vehicle pursuits. The current proposals in the legislature still include strong restrictions on pursuits, and a common-sense balancing test: that the risks of not arresting the suspect outweigh the risk of the pursuit itself.

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