

## You Made a Difference

The current media climate against law enforcement has only made your jobs harder and more dangerous. Politicians across the country are bowing to the pressure and are throwing upstanding officers under the bus in order to gain temporary public accolades. This is a disturbing trend and one that we are battling against in Washington State. Because of your efforts, we were able to stave off the backlash during this legislative session.

- Your political action committee (PAC), the Council of Police Political Support, contributed \$150,000 to help elect state legislative candidates that support law enforcement.
- Over 75 law enforcement officers from around the state participated in the WACOPS Day on the Hill and met individually with their legislators. Through this effort, our agenda was out early and relationships were built between the elected officials and their local officers.
- You had a full-time lobbyist at the legislature every day during regular session. These advocates testified, monitored legislation, counted votes and attended meetings on your behalf providing a constant voice of support.
- Many officers from the around the state stayed engaged in the process throughout session and helped draft legislation, provide expert testimony, and maintained constant contact with their local legislators.

## About WACOPS

For more than 50 years the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs has fought to strengthen the rights and quality of life for those who have dedicated their careers to protecting and serving our communities. We are the largest association in Washington dedicated to advocating on behalf of law enforcement officers, our agenda corresponds directly to the needs of our membership.



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# WACOPS 2015 Legislative Review

## Legislative Session Summary

The 2015 legislative session is in the record books as the longest legislative session in Washington State history. Over the course of 176 days, legislators worked to produce a capital budget, operating budget, and the first transportation budget in ten years.

Overall, the law enforcement community was well served this session. Pensions, WACOPS' top priority, continued to be fully funded in the final budget. Bills providing resources for investigation of internet child exploitation also received resounding support in both houses.

However, uncertainty continues to hang over Olympia due to the Supreme Court's recent actions regarding K-12 funding requirements and mental healthcare. It is unclear if those court decisions will have negative impacts on our interests.

## Relevant Legislation

| Bill #                         | Description  | Sponsor      | Position  | Outcome  |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Pensions &amp; Benefits</b> |  |              |           |          |
| 1194                           | Addressing the death benefits of a surviving spouse        | Kirby        | Neutral   | Passed   |
| 5466                           | Clarifying eligibility for benefits from PEBB              | Becker       | Supported | Passed   |
| 1740                           | Purchasing health coverage through PEBB                    | Appleton     | Supported | Died     |
| 5435                           | Expanding participation in the state deferred comp program | Bailey       | Supported | Died     |
| 5873                           | LEOFF plan 1, opening a window for a survivor benefit      | Conway       | Supported | Died     |
| 5982                           | Increasing retirement age from 53 to 55                    | Braun        | Opposed   | Defeated |
| <b>Criminal Justice Issues</b> |  |              |           |          |
| 1281/5215                      | Concerning the exploitation of minors. "Alicia's Law"      | Sawyer/Roach | Supported | Passed   |

|                         |   |                   |           |          |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1316                    | Allowing for arrest without a warrant for certain temporary protection orders | Stambaugh         | Supported | Passed   |
| 1090                    | Investigating financial fraud and identity theft crimes                       | Kirby             | Supported | Passed   |
| 1448                    | Procedures for responding to reports of threatened or attempted suicide       | Riccelli          | Supported | Died     |
| 1721                    | Transporting patients to facilities other than hospitals                      | Robinson          | Supported | Passed   |
| 1553                    | Encouraging certificates of restoration of opportunity                        | Walkinshaw        | Supported | Died     |
| 1017                    | Allowing for more than one vacation of a misdemeanor                          | Appleton          | Opposed   | Defeated |
| 1024                    | Reducing the penalty for possession of controlled substances                  | Appleton          | Opposed   | Defeated |
| 1951                    | Clarifying use of law enforcement unmarked vehicles                           | Pike              | Opposed   | Defeated |
| 1885/5755               | Addressing and mitigating the impacts of property crimes                      | Klippert/Hargrove | Neutral   | Died     |
| <b>Gun Issues</b>       |   |                   |           |          |
| 5381                    | Creating a protocol for returning firearms                                    | Billig            | Supported | Passed   |
| 1535/5476               | Firearms purchase using commission card                                       | Klippert/Dammeier | Supported | Died     |
| <b>Workplace Issues</b> |   |                   |           |          |
| 5311/5955               | Increased funding for crisis intervention training                            | Rolfes/Appleton   | Supported | Passed   |
| 5783                    | Authorizing officers to assist DOC offender supervision                       | Rivers            | Supported | Died     |
| 1980/6020               | Implementing recommendations of the committee on public disclosure            | Springer/Chase    | Supported | Passed   |
| 1512/5589               | Encouraging fairness in disciplinary actions of officers, "Brady Lists"       | Sells/Oban        | Supported | Died     |
| 5226                    | Public disclosure of public sector unions' finances                           | Becker            | Opposed   | Died     |
| 1910/5732               | Restricting body camera footage to officer discipline only                    | Ryu/Jayapal       | Opposed   | Died     |
| 1917                    | Regulating body cameras   | Hansen            | Neutral   | Died     |
| 1964/5763               | F&W collective bargaining   | Blake/Warnick     | Neutral   | Died     |

**Priority Legislation Update**



LEOFF Pension System

- The legislature continued to support pension contribution rates adopted by the LEOFF 2 Board and upheld the authority of the LEOFF board to set actuarial assumptions and contribution rates for the plan.
- The legislature fully funded the LEOFF 2 Plan Benefit Improvement Account Transfer.

Criminal Justice

- The legislature continued providing localities a share of local liquor tax
- A new marijuana regulatory system was established that

melds recreational and medical outlets while providing local governments a share of marijuana tax revenue.

- Both Alicia’s Law bills passed. These bills create and fund efforts to combat internet child exploitation and abuse.

Workplace Issues

- The operating budget for the Criminal Justice Training Commission has increased.

**Members in Olympia**

WACOPS members continued to build upon established relationships this year.

*Winter Membership Meeting* – Over 75 members participated in the WACOPS Day on the Hill, winter membership meeting, and the legislative reception. Members met with their Representatives and Senators to advance the WACOPS agenda. The WACOPS legislative reception is one of the largest receptions in Olympia and was attended this year by over 200 elected officials and staff.



*Member Testimony* - WACOPS members testified during legislative hearings this year. From electronic fraud devices to Brady Lists, our members offered their expert testimony on a wide range of issues, helping inform legislators about issues facing law enforcement officers statewide.