

Members Make the Difference

We are a membership-based organization. It's never been truer than now that we are stronger together. A key service WACOPS provides members is our advocacy. While our advocacy efforts are most noticeable during the legislative session, it is at the heart of our day to day operations. We advocate for you every day. Whether you are able to participate in any of the annual membership meetings or not, you are encouraged to call or email our Executive Director with questions or ideas any time. The WACOPS Board is always available to you and our Government Relations Committee is immersed in each issue guiding the WACOPS lobby team. The winter membership meeting includes a "day on the hill" event with our members meeting with the legislators from their districts. The legislature takes notice when WACOPS members come to town. Your involvement matters. Whether you have any experience in advocacy or not, you are needed at the winter meeting. Plan to attend in 2019. During the spring meeting, members are reminded about the outcome of the previous session and asked to consider candidate endorsements. The outcome of these decisions can have long lasting impact and your attention and engagement is important to the execution of both short term and long term legislative goals. Again, advocacy is at the heart of what we do for you and we need your input to do it well. The fall meeting is your next opportunity to set the legislative priorities. For example, you asked WACOPS to fix the Brady List loophole and we did. You asked WACOPS to find an alternative to I-940 and we did. As you see, your input is integral to the advocacy program at WACOPS. You are the driving force behind our success. Please attend as many meetings as possible and reach out to leadership and staff whenever you have a question or idea. We want to hear from you.

ABOUT WACOPS

For more than 50 years the Washington Council of Police & 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 legislative agenda corresponds directly to the needs of our membership.

STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH UNITY

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WACOPS 2018 Legislative Review



Legislative Session Summary



The recently concluded 2018 legislative session was unique in many ways and arguably the most successful session for WACOPS members in recent memory.

First of all, the sixty-day session lasted... 60 days!

2018 also brought an aggressive agenda for the WACOPS organization and the legislative team began work as soon as the 2017 election was over. Based on past legislative efforts and member priorities, we knew that our focus would be I-940, Brady List protections, LEOFF funding, defending collective bargaining, PTSD and presumptive disease protections, and any other law enforcement/public safety issues

that gained any momentum. Traditionally, a "short-session" is held to make minor adjustments to the budget and minor policy changes, so success in more than one or two areas is unusual.

As mentioned earlier, members of the Government Relations Committee (GRC) and your lobbying team (Bud and Teresa) began to work on our priorities as soon as the results of the 2017 election were known. With Democrats winning the majority in the Senate, our Brady List bill needed a new champion, and one week after the election, Senator-elect Manka Dhingra agreed to be our prime sponsor, the incoming chair of the committee agreed to have hearings and support the bill and Senator O'Ban (our prior prime sponsor) agreed to be the second sponsor. Here is the inside baseball on why this strategy and these Senators were targeted: The majority party prefers to move bills from their side of the aisle, leadership always wants to pass at least one bill from freshman legislators, our freshman legislator was a prosecutor, and with a "D" as the prime sponsor and an "R" as the second sponsor- the bill is considered bipartisan. SB 6188 passed the Senate 41-6, passed the House 98-0, and was signed by the Governor (see photo above) on March 23 with an effective date of June 7, 2018.

Efforts to secure the Legislature's payment to the LEOFF benefit improvement account along with full implementation of the LEOFF pension rates as adopted by the LEOFF 2 Board also began prior to the legislative session. The Governor's proposed budget (step one in the budget adoption process) was released in early December and included both. While the final negotiated budget did include full funding of LEOFF Plan 2 contributions, it did not include our Bakenhus (contractual right) payment of \$25 million into the benefit improvement account. Fortunately, as requested, the Governor again vetoed budget language that would make future payments from LEOFF funds. The window remains open for the 2019 legislature to properly make the catch-up payment.

The change in the Senate this year not only changed the dynamics of the Brady bill (our biggest labor issue), but also several other labor and member protection issues. The chair of the Senate Labor Committee, Senator Karen Keiser, scheduled additional hearing time to move worker protection bills and not one negative collective bargaining bill even had a hearing. WACOPS priority bills providing PTSD and presumptive disease protections were given hearings early in the session and then passed off the Senate floor and moved to the House for further action. SB 6214 provides presumptive illness L&I protections for PTSD that occurs after 10 years of service and allows a claim for PTSD caused by multiple traumatic events. This bill takes effect on June 7, 2018 following the Governor's signature (see photo) on March 23rd. Unfortunately, SB 6213 (presumptive disease protections for heart issues, stroke and infectious disease) came one step short of going to the Governor's desk and should get full consideration for passage in 2019 or future sessions.



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There were several other labor bills that WACOPS monitored and/or weighed in on during the session that may have future implications for WACOPS members. HB 1559 sought to provide binding interest arbitration for University law enforcement officers. It did not ultimately pass but may provide a pathway for Fish & Wildlife members in WACOPS to eventually have more impact on their contract negotiations. HB 2751 was passed by the Legislature to provide surety for guilds to collect union dues should the U.S. Supreme Court rule against labor in the Janus v. AFSCME case, and SB 6231 was passed to provide uniformity in unfair labor practices that occurred due to a State Supreme Court ruling. Finally, HB 2851 was passed to ensure that military reserve leave was properly credited as one day when a work shift crossed over into two calendar days.

Due to the length of the 2017 session(s), our LEOFF 2 Board had very little time during the interim to develop an aggressive agenda for 2018, but both priority bills were passed and signed by the Governor. HB 2701 clarifies the definition of veterans for the purpose of service credits granted to LEOFF members that serve in the military, and HB 2709 allows the LEOFF 2 Board to set the salary of the Director. Unfortunately, the agency size of the LEOFF Board has been used to determine the Director's salary range and does not take into consideration the expertise required of the position or the competitive marketplace that exists. HB 2709 ensures that the LEOFF Board can recruit and/or retain the best person to lead our pension system.

There were several important law enforcement specific issues this session. With the completion of the final report from the body-cam task force, critical privacy protections and public record retention rules were set to expire. SB 6408 addressed the expiring provisions and left out attempts to use body-cams as only police accountability tools and was signed by the Governor on March 27th with an effective date of June 7, 2018. Several gun related bills were debated this session, but only SB 5992 to ban bump stocks achieved bipartisan support and passed. An effort to implement a motor vehicle felony pilot program (SB 5539) was revived midway through the session but was unable to gain final passage in the House.

The budget added a large investment in mental health services including \$1,000,000 for HB 2892 to implement a mental health field response grant program. It also funded CJTC's budget requests for BLEA classes, an investment in non-deadly force training, and also provided WASPC with \$50,000 for a school safety/mass shooting study that will have Jason Granneman as the WACOPS representative.

Of course, the certification of the deadly force initiative to the Legislature weighed heavily on everything this organization did during the 2018 session. A recap of the work done on this issue alone could fill several pages! Negotiations to craft an acceptable and more just deadly force statute than the initiative proposed took many hours from GRC members, the director and lobbyist over several weeks. At 4 P.M. on March 5th, with no more than 80 hours left in the session, an agreement (HB 3003) was reached. Seventy-Six hours later, committee hearings, committee votes, Attorney and Solicitor General briefings, leadership meetings with both parties in both chambers, debate and votes in both chambers, and Governor meetings and a bill signing was complete and I-940 was resolved without an expensive, distasteful campaign.

While it is completely understandable and reasonable for individual guilds to sometimes have adversarial relationships with their administrations, this session proved that working with WASPC (when possible) for the betterment of the profession is both good politics and increases the likelihood of success of the WACOPS agenda. While the Brady List protections won this year would probably have happened anyway, an all-out fight with WASPC would have reduced the amount of available effort that went into passing PTSD protections and would have certainly changed the dynamic in the deadly force fight.

This legislative session was an enormous success. WACOPS again proved that it is the go-to organization for rank and file issues before the Legislature. You can each be proud of the work that has been done to build this organization and feel confident in celebrating its accomplishments. The next photo is of WACOPS members in the Senate gallery during the winter meeting in Olympia.

The work does not end, election season has begun and preparations for the 2019 session will be coming soon. Please be safe out there and do everything in your power to make your guild and WACOPS even stronger.

A group of approximately 20 people, mostly men in suits, are seated in rows in a large, ornate room, likely the Senate gallery in Olympia. They are looking towards the front of the room. The room has high ceilings, chandeliers, and wood-paneled walls.

2018 Table of Select Bills Tracked

High Priority Bills						
Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority	Position
SHB 1655	Industrial insurance/stress	Allowing industrial insurance coverage for stress-caused mental disorders and disabilities of members of the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system.	H Rules 3C	Lovick	High	Support
HB 2532 (SB 6188)	Peace officer disciplining	Concerning fairness in disciplinary actions of peace officers who appear on a prosecuting attorney's potential impeachment list.	H Rules R	Sells	High	Support
SHB 2633 (ESB 6213)	Occup. disease presumptions	Addressing the presumption of occupational disease for purposes of workers' compensation by adding medical conditions to the presumption and extending the presumption to certain publicly employed firefighters and investigators and law enforcement.	H Rules C	Doglio	High	Support
HB 2968 (SB 6574)	Body armor sentencing enhan.	Creating a sentencing enhancement for body armor.	H Public Safety	Irwin	High	Support
ESHB 3003	Law enforcement	Concerning law enforcement.	C 10 L 18	Goodman	High	Support
SB 6188 (HB 2532)	Peace officer disciplining	Encouraging fairness in disciplinary actions of peace officers.	C 265 L 18	Dhingra	High	Support
ESB 6213 (SHB 2633)	Occup. disease presumptions	Addressing the presumption of occupational disease for purposes of workers' compensation by adding medical conditions to the presumption and extending the presumption to certain publicly employed firefighters and investigators and law enforcement.	S Rules 3	Ranker	High	Support
SSB 6214	PTSD/law enf. & firefighters	Allowing industrial insurance coverage for posttraumatic stress disorders affecting law enforcement officers and firefighters.	C 264 L 18	Conway	High	Support
SB 6574 (HB 2968)	Body armor sentencing enhan.	Creating a sentencing enhancement for body armor.	S Law & Justice	O'Ban	High	Support

Medium Priority Bills						
Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority	Position
HB 1387 (SSB 5444)	Assault weapons/bckgrnd chck	Concerning enhanced background checks and licensure for assault weapons and large capacity magazines.	H Judiciary	Jenkins	Medium	Oppose
2SHB 1759	Crime victims/communicating	Addressing procedures for communicating with crime victims and survivors of crime victims.	H Rules R	Ortiz-Self	Medium	Concerns
SHB 2287 (SB 6060)	Diversion center pilot proj.	Establishing a criminal justice system diversion center pilot project.	H Rules 3C	Hayes	Medium	Support
ESHB 2701 (SSB 6377)	Definition of veteran	Addressing the definition of veteran.	C 61 L 18	Bergquist	Medium	Support
HB 2709	LEOFF 2 exec director salary	Concerning the authority of the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' plan 2 retirement board to set the salary of the executive director.	C 272 L 18	Holy	Medium	Support
SHB 2737	Local gov. revenue study	Studying the constitutional and statutory obligations and tax revenue capacity of local government entities.	H Approps	Appleton	Medium	Support
SSB 5444 (HB 1387)	Assault weapon sale reqs.	Aligning the sale and purchase requirements for assault weapons with the sale and purchase requirements for handguns and pistols.	S Ways & Means	Froct	Medium	Oppose

Low Priority Bills						
Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority	Position
HB 2751 (SSB 6296)	Deduction of union dues	Concerning the deduction of union dues and fees.	C 247 L 18	Stonier	Low	Support
SHB 2786	LEOFF/DOC, DSHS firefighters	Concerning membership in the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system plan 2 for firefighters employed by the department of corrections or the department of social and health services and serving at a prison or civil commitment center located on an island.	C 230 L 18	Kilduff	Low	Support
HB 2851	Military leave calculation	Clarifying the calculation of military leave for officers and employees that work shifts spanning more than one calendar day.	C 99 L 18	Reeves	Low	Support
HB 2892	Mental health field response	Establishing the mental health field response teams program.	C 142 L 18	Lovick	Low	Support
SSB 6051 (SHB 2273)	Medicaid fraud control unit	Concerning the medicaid fraud control unit.	C 238 L 18	Dhingra	Low	Support
SB 6145	Civil service qualifications	Addressing civil service qualifications.	C 32 L 18	Saldana	Low	Neutral
SB 6231 (HB 2736)	Unfair labor practices SOL	Concerning the statute of limitations for unfair labor practice complaints filed in superior court.	C 252 L 18	Kuderer	Low	Support
SB 6298	DV harassment/firearms	Adding domestic violence harassment to the list of offenses for which a person is prohibited from possessing a firearm.	C 234 L 18	Dhingra	Low	Neutral

Monitoring Priority Bills						
Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority	Position
EHB 2519	Pistol license eligibility	Concerning concealed pistol license eligibility requirements.	C 226 L 18	Schmick	Monitoring	
ESB 5992	Bump-fire stocks	Concerning trigger modification devices. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Concerning bump-fire stocks.)	C 7 L 18	Van De Wege	Monitoring	
ESSB 6032 (ESHB 2299)	Supp. operating budget	Making 2018 supplemental operating appropriations.	C 299 L 18	Rolfes	Monitoring	Neutral
E2SSB 6160	Exclusive adult jurisdiction	Revising conditions under which a person is subject to exclusive adult jurisdiction and extending juvenile court jurisdiction over serious cases to age twenty-five.	C 162 L 18	Kuderer	Monitoring	
SB 6408 (HB 2893)	Body worn cameras	Regulating body worn cameras.	C 285 L 18	Padden		Neutral

The above table reflects all tracked bills that passed during the 2018 session and all other bills that we considered medium to high priority. The table only reflects a small sampling of all the bills the WACOPS lobby team and Government Relations Committee tracked. Over the two-year biennium, WACOPS tracked over 100 pieces of legislation. 2018 ends the biennium. Any of the issues noted above may come back before the legislature, but a new bill number will be assigned.