

You Make a Difference As A Member Every Day

Our most valuable asset at WACOPS is our members. Thank you for not only dedicating your lives to service that protects our communities, but for taking time to respond to “Action Alerts” that allow legislators to see the importance of making laws that protect the rights and quality of life of law enforcement officers. Two areas of critical work done during this 2017 regular session include:



- Around 75 law enforcement officers from around the state participated in the WACOPS Day on the Hill and met individually with their legislators. We're hopeful for an increase in membership participation next year. These efforts are important to getting our agenda out early and building relationships with legislators.
- WACOPS lobbyist and staff served in Olympia every day (and several late nights) during the legislative session. These advocates testified, monitored legislation, counted votes and forcefully advanced interests relating to law enforcement.

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 2017 Legislative Review



Legislative Session Summary

During the October 2016 membership meeting in Chelan, the delegates of this organization adopted legislative priorities protecting and enhancing our pensions, maintaining LEO protections in deadly force encounters, improving public safety funding, and protection of collective bargaining along with other priorities for the 2017 legislative session(s). Your legislative team (Director Carl Nelson and Lobbyist Bud Sizemore) used those priorities as guideposts over these past four-plus months and will continue our efforts until the Legislature finally adopts a two-year budget and leaves town for the year.

Were we successful? Well, we aren't done yet! With the Legislature divided and both chambers having slim majorities (Senate has Republican control 25-24 and House has Democratic control 50-48), and several positions being up for election this upcoming November, politics are more prevalent this year than most. What that means for WACOPS is that we are mostly treading water. Yes, that means a lot of effort without much forward progress - but remember, without the effort, you sink and drown.



One absolute success in 2017 was a co-hosted day on the hill and legislative reception with WAFOP. With more than 250 attendees, our reception was the second-largest in memory and the one-on-one conversations and relationship-building was priceless. Additionally, both the driving and “shoot/don't shoot” simulators were non-stop for three hours. Your legislative team heard great reviews from legislators on the joint meetings and a united law enforcement voice has been a powerful element in our interactions all year.

With the completion of the regular session, most everything that isn't directly tied to the budget either passed or is dead for the year. Based on that premise, here is what is completed and how we fared:

There were several variations of Right-to-Work, open public meeting bargaining, and union-defunding bills introduced that have all died, but a few of them passed off of the Senate floor - which is concerning for future sessions. Rep. Mike Sells (D-Everett) deserves thanks for not even giving them hearings in the House. Another area of concern for WACOPS was proposed assault weapon and magazine bans. There was a single House hearing, and none of the bills even moved out of committee.

Representative Roger Goodman (D-Kirkland) provided a mixed bag as the chair of the House Public Safety Committee. He is supportive of enhanced sentencing for attacks on law enforcement officers but does not believe designation as a “hate crime” is legally appropriate. So, while Sen. Honeyford's (R-Sunnyside) hate crime bill passed the Senate, it did not move in the House. Meanwhile, WACOPS and WASPC opposition to expanding

authority to liquor officers convinced Rep. Goodman to not move that bill forward. Positive revisions to eluding police statutes made it out of the House but ran into opposition in the Senate and did not make it to the Senate floor. We believe that working with prosecutors during the interim will be beneficial to this effort next year.

Another success from the regular session was passage of a bill that provides law enforcement and domestic violence survivors notice of attempts to illegally purchase firearms. Rep. Drew Hansen (D-Bremerton) and our own Rep. Dave Hayes (R-Camano Island) sponsored the bill, and WACOPS members testified in favor of its passage. As a result of other legislation passed this year, the LEOFF 2 Board will be studying whether no-cost service credits for military members not serving in a combat zone is appropriate, and the impacts of tribal police belonging to the LEOFF 2 pension.



While WACOPS was unable to gain final passage this year, we were able to have substantial conversations and had hearings on presumptive disease protection for cardiovascular, stroke and communicable diseases, as well as L&I coverage for PTSD and mental health issues as an occupational illness. This is an area that law enforcement is due for coverage and we will build on this year's progress in upcoming sessions.

With special session(s) ongoing, almost anything can be part of a final negotiated budget. Here is what we are still concerned about:



- The merger of LEOFF 1 and PERS 1 has not been introduced this year, but we are aware that it still has some interest. As stated through WACOPS weekly e-mail updates, the Senate fails to make their LEOFF 2 contributions for city and county LEOFF members. A final budget is expected to include full funding for LEOFF 2 so we will be monitoring future proposals. None of the proposed budgets include the \$25M due to be paid into the benefit enhancement account, so we expect that it will be a battle for 2018. Of additional concern in the Senate budget proposals are large savings in corrections. Those only come from letting people out early or not sending them in the first place. Shifting those confinement costs onto the employers or failing to incarcerate those that should be is a big public safety concern. We have and will continue to share our concerns with the Legislature.
- CJTC, advanced training, and local government funding all continue to be in flux as final budget negotiations have yet to begin between the House and the Senate. The next fiscal year begins on July 1, 2017, so budgets are due by June 30. It is unlikely that a final budget is agreed upon until the final days.
- Bills to change the “deadly use of force” statute are all technically dead, but conversations by legislators continue and a work session update has occurred during the first special session. Your legislative team and executive board have worked a tremendous amount of hours on this topic alone this session and will continue our vigilance in protecting our members.

Relevant Legislation

Bill #	Title	Short Description	Sponsor	Position	Status
SB 5073	Deadly Force	Use of deadly force by LE officers	Frockt	Concerns	TBD
HB 1006	Right to Work	Protecting the right to work	Shea	Oppose	Dead
HB 1287	Collective Bargaining	Collective Bargaining	Chandler	Oppose	Dead
HB 1951	Public Employee Bargaining/OPMA	Requiring public employee bargaining sessions to be open	Manweller	Oppose	Dead
SB 5429	Violent Interactions	Reducing the number of violent interactions between officers and members of the public	Pearson	Concerns	Dead
SHB 1113	Excess Liquor Revenue Distribution	Gradual increase local gov't share of excess liquor revenues	Hayes	Support	TBD
HB 1764	Property Tax Revenue Limit	Replacing the one percent property tax revenue limit with a limit tied to cost drivers	Lytton	Support	TBD
HB 1134	Assault Weapons Ban	Banning the sale of assault weapons, large cap. magazines	Peterson	Oppose	Dead
HB 1387	Assault Weapons Background Checks	Enhanced background checks, licensure for assault weapons	Jinkins	Oppose	Dead
SHB 5280	Law Enforcement Hate Crime	Making crimes against persons due to occupation as a law enforcement officer a hate crime	Honeyford	Support	Dead
SHB 1655	Industrial insurance/stress	Allowing industrial insurance coverage for stress-caused mental disorders, disabilities of members of the LEO and firefighters' retirement system	Lovick	Support	Dead
SHB 1501	Attempts to obtain firearms	Protecting law enforcement, public from persons who illegally attempt to purchase firearms	Hansen	Support	Passed
HB 1642	Eluding a police vehicle	Changing the seriousness level for the crime of attempting to allude a pursuing police vehicle	Sells	Support	Dead
ESSB 5048	Operating Budget	Making operating appropriations for the 2015-17 and 2017-19 fiscal biennia	Braun	Concerns	TBD
SB 5073	Deadly Force	Use of deadly force by LE officers	Frockt	Concerns	TBD
SB 5661	LEOFF interruptive Service credit	Study: interruptive service credit for LEO & fire-fighters' retirement system members	Rolfes	Neutral	Passed