

# Safe Communities & Consumer Protection



## Public Safety

*Public safety is all about doing what works – what is smart, fiscally responsible, and keeps the most people safe. We find out where the damage is being done and do our best to stop it from happening, while protecting citizens' rights to privacy and ensuring justice is served.*

### Cracking down on perpetrators of sex trafficking

**Involuntary Servitude/SB 6339** - Coercion is a strong force. Many victims of sex trafficking are forced to stay in the trade because their pimp coerces them in various ways. One victimization technique in particular used by pimps is to threaten to destroy victims' immigration papers if they do not cooperate. This bill makes a new crime of "coercion of involuntary servitude". It will better protect victims by giving law enforcement the tools they need to properly punish traffickers. *(Delivered to Governor)*

### Helping victims of the sex trade move on with their lives

**Sex trafficking and prostitution convictions / HB 1292** - It is difficult for victims of sex trafficking, prostitution and sexual abuse to move on with their lives. With a criminal record they are often not able to find a job, rent an apartment or go to college. Without tools to combat the factors that led them to become victims in the first place – poverty, violence and drugs, they are likely to end up in a revolving door. This bill allows victims of prostitution to have their convictions vacated, giving them a fresh start in life and a chance to succeed. *(Delivered to Governor)*

### Protecting victims of domestic violence

**Firearms and protection orders / HB 1840** – For years, advocates for victims of domestic violence have called for laws to remove firearms from domestic violence offenders. More than half of the homicide victims in this country are women killed at the hands of their intimate partners, usually with a firearm. HB 1840 aligns Washington law with federal law by removing firearms from persons subject to protection orders. At the most volatile time in an abusive relationship, offenders will be required to surrender firearms. If the protection order expires or is lifted, or if the offender is acquitted, firearms and rights are then restored. *(Delivered to Governor)*

### Strengthening our state's impaired driving laws

**DUI Bills/SB 6413 & SB 6415** – Last year, Washington passed landmark laws toughening our state's impaired driving standards. This year, we passed two bills building on last year's reforms. SB 6413 adds five new offenses to those that count as "prior" offenses, letting impaired drivers get away with less. The bill also requires that more judges sentence offenders to "24/7" sobriety monitoring where it is available. This is a surefire way to keep drunk drivers from operating vehicles. SB 6415 changes the sentencing statute to ensure offenders serve the full amount of time for all crimes committed. *(Both delivered to Governor)*



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### Allowing offenders a better chance at life on the outside

**Pilot identicard program / [HB 2518](#)** - This bill creates a pilot program to give exiting prisoners a standard issue ID card to assist with housing and employment. The bill will make it easier for these individuals to reintegrate into society and reduce recidivism, enhance public safety, and save the state money in the long run. *(Died in Senate)*

### Giving youth a second chance

**Juvenile Life without Parole/[SB 5064](#)** – Research shows that children’s brains are different from adult’s brains. Anatomical differences in the adolescent brain make youth less capable than adults of assessing risks, controlling impulsive behavior, and engaging in moral reasoning. These differences suggest that youth may be less culpable than adults and more amenable to rehabilitation, as adolescents typically "age out" of delinquent behavior. So sentencing a child to life without parole, even if it is a serious crime, isn’t always the best choice. In response to a recent Supreme Court ruling, this bill reforms the state’s juvenile sentencing statute to reflect this. Juveniles in Washington aged 16 or under will no longer be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. And, to sentence youth aged 16-18 to life without parole, judges and courts will be required to give the case extra care and attention. *(Delivered to Governor)*

### Balancing privacy with the growing popularity of hobbyist drones

**Unmanned aircraft / [HB 2178](#)** – Requires that when using unmanned aircraft devices that have an active sensing device, such as a camera, the operator must have an individual’s consent if the drone gathers personal information. Also, the unmanned aircraft must be clearly labeled with the name and contact information of the owner. *(Died in the Senate)*

### Limiting government use of drones

**Government surveillance with extraordinary devices / [HB 2789](#)** – If Big Brother was watching today, he’d probably use some high-tech spyware unnoticed by his targets. This bill keeps the 21<sup>st</sup>-century version of Big Brother in check. It bars state government, local governments and police departments from using drone aircraft or other sophisticated surveillance equipment to spy on people surreptitiously without legal approval. It also directs law-enforcement and other public agencies to get permission from the government body they work for before acquiring the technology. The measure exempts surveillance for forest-fire control, wildlife management, environmental monitoring, military training and in emergencies proclaimed by the governor. *(Delivered to Governor)*

### Saving lives

**Suicide Prevention Training / [HB 2315](#)** – In 2012 the Legislature passed [HB 2366](#), the Matt Adler Suicide, Treatment and Management Act, which required a broad range of health care providers, who may come into contact with individuals contemplating suicide, to obtain six hours of suicide prevention training every six years. This year’s bill expands the list of professionals to include chiropractors, naturopaths, osteopathic physicians and assistants, physical therapists and assistants, physicians, and nurses. Instead of every six years, this measure requires these health care professionals to get a one-time 6-hour suicide-prevention training course. *(Delivered to Governor)*