



## **Our Mission**

Protect the public by ensuring that  
gambling is legal and honest

An accredited, limited authority law enforcement agency and the only statewide agency devoted to licensing, regulation, and enforcement of gambling in Washington state.

WASHINGTON STATE  
GAMBLING COMMISSION

2023 LEGISLATIVE BROCHURE

## 2023 AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATION

### **GOAL**

Standardization of training, certification, and accountability measures across all law enforcement agencies in the state.

***Concerning oversight and training requirements for limited authority Washington peace officers and agencies*** proposes amendments to state law to standardize training, hiring, and certification requirements. This bill does not impact current scope, authority or jurisdiction of any limited authority law enforcement agency, rather it seeks to increase the accountability standards of all officers performing law enforcement activities in the state of Washington.

#### **Certification**

Because the limited law enforcement agencies have no state training requirements for their peace officers, the officers are also not certified. If an officer does something wrong, there is no state accountability in which the officer would lose their certification. Thus, officers fired from one limited law enforcement agency could be employed at other law enforcement agencies. This bill will mandate all limited law enforcement officers to be held to the same state certification standards as other law enforcement officers. Officers could then be decertified if misconduct occurs.

### **Impact**

Passing this bill will bring approximately 350 limited law enforcement officers into the same standardized certification process as general law enforcement.

## 2023 AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATION

### Training

Currently, limited law enforcement agencies are not required to complete any law enforcement training. Yet limited authority law enforcement agencies want to make sure their peace officers are adequately trained for the safety of the community and the officer. This legislative proposal seeks to require limited authority Washington peace officers, as defined in RCW 10.93.020 who as a normal part of their duties have powers of arrest and carry a firearm, to receive the same training as other law enforcement officers in Washington state.

### A Multi-Agency Effort

The Gambling Commission, Liquor & Cannabis Board, Office of Insurance Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, and Parks & Recreation Commission all worked together to draft the bill language.

*We believe it is was the intent of the police reform of 2021 to ensure that all law enforcement officers who have the powers of arrest and to carry a firearm be trained and held accountable.*

### Standardization

This bill would change state law to require limited authority law enforcement agencies to have the same training, hiring, and certification requirements as general authority law enforcement agencies, thus standardizing conditions across all law enforcement agencies in the state. **The bill does not expand the jurisdiction of limited authority law peace officers.** Instead, it aligns these limited law enforcement agencies with state standards that Washington lawmakers identified as a key component of police reform in 2021.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK

The Washington State Gambling Commission is a limited authority law enforcement agency. The commission's special agents are limited authority Washington peace officers.

The commission and its special agents are empowered to investigate any criminal offense enumerated in RCW 9.46. They are also empowered to investigate general criminal offenses that they find or determine to have a connection to gambling, gambling facilities, gambling equipment, individuals engaged in gambling activities, gambling licensing, or any other activity regulated or prohibited by



*Fighting roosters identified during an investigation into an animal fighting group*

### Agents are authorized to:

- ◆ Intervene in a crime or incident not related to gambling activities when life or serious property damage is in jeopardy (RCW 9.46.212);
- ◆ Apply for and execute search warrants (RCW 9.46.210); and
- ◆ Make arrests without a warrant (RCW 9.46.210).

## GAMBLING-RELATED OFFENSES

General criminal offenses that may have a connection to gambling, gambling facilities, gambling equipment, individuals engaged in gambling activities, gambling licensing, or any other activity regulated or prohibited by the Gambling Act include, but are not necessarily limited to:



RCW 9A.36	◇ Assault
RCW 9A.56	◇ Theft and possession of stolen property ◇ Extortion
RCW 9A.83.020	◇ Money laundering ◇ Extortionate extension of credit
RCW 9A.82.030	◇ Advancing money or property to be used for extortionate credit
RCW 9 A.82.040	◇ Use of extortionate means to collect extensions of credit
RCW 9A.82.045	◇ Collection of unlawful debt
RCW 9A.82.060	◇ Leading organized crime
RCW 9A.82.070	◇ Influencing outcome of sporting event
RCW 9A.82.080	◇ Use of proceeds of criminal profiteering
RCW 9A.88	◇ Prostitution
RCW 16.52.117	◇ Animal fighting
RCW 69.50	◇ Controlled substances
RCW 74.34.215	◇ Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults

# WASHINGTON STATE GAMBLING COMMISSION



Created by the 1973 Gambling Act (RCW 9.46), the Commission issues licenses, regulates, and enforces the laws and rules associated with gambling in the state of Washington.

## *OUR MISSION*

Protect the public by ensuring that gambling is legal and honest.

Our mission is met through:

- ◇ Licensing
- ◇ Regulation & Enforcement
- ◇ Tribal Gaming Partnerships
- ◇ Electronic Gambling Lab

### Agency Operations

We are an accredited, limited-jurisdiction law enforcement agency, functioning as a non-appropriated agency funded through licensing and regulatory fees paid by licensees and tribal governments.

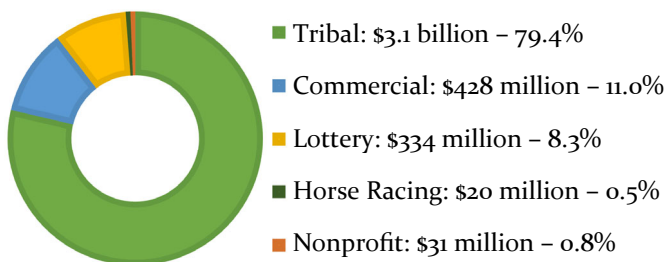
The Commission is composed of five commissioners appointed by the Governor to six-year terms. It holds regular public meetings, makes policy and budget decisions, and takes action on administrative matters. Four members of the Legislature serve as ex-officio members and vote to approve and amend Tribal-state Class III gaming compacts. They play an important liaison role between the Commission and the Legislature.

### Gambling Investigation Specialists

We are seen as gambling experts. As such, city, county, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies rely on us to investigate crimes with a connection to gambling, such as cheating, theft, money laundering, loan sharking, bookmaking, or animal fighting. Agents also coordinate closely with other law enforcement agencies and federal task forces investigating general criminal offenses connected to gambling and money laundering.

## ABOUT THE AGENCY

### Gambling Net Receipts (FY2022) \$3.9 billion



### Tribal Gaming

**Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) in 1988.** IGRA requires states to negotiate Gaming Compacts in good faith to allow Tribes to offer casino style gaming if it is allowed in the state.

- Under state law, the Director is delegated the responsibility to negotiate Class III Gaming Compacts.
- All 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington State have a Gaming Compact.

### Enforcement and Regulation

- We jointly regulate Tribal gaming activities by working with Tribes to provide on-site enforcement and regulation.
- We certify Tribal gaming employees, who are also licensed by the Tribes.
- Since 1992, we have certified nearly 31,000 employees, of which approximately 9,600 are currently certified/licensed.

# WASHINGTON STATE GAMBLING COMMISSION

## Contact Us



**Tommy Oakes**

**Legislative Liaison**

tommy.oakes@wsgc.wa.gov

360-890-0875

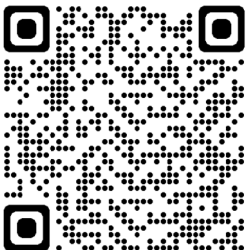


**Lisa McLean**

**Legislative & Policy Manager**

lisa.mclean@wsgc.wa.gov


360-878-1903



[www.wsgc.wa.gov](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov)

P.O Box 42400 | Olympia, WA 98504-2400

(360) 486-3440 | (800) 345-2529

 WAGambling Commission

 WAGambling