RIDGEFIELD CITY COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 18, 2025
RACC - Columbia Assembly Room
510 Pioneer Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642

I. STUDY SESSION - 4:00 P.M.

1. **HB 2015 - Public Safety Funding Options - Kirk Johnson, Finance Director, Cathy Doriot, Police Chief**

II. ADJOURN

CITY OF RIDGEFIELD
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: September 18, 2025

AGENDA ITEM NAME: HB 2015 - Public Safety Funding Options

GOVERNING LEGISLATION

HB 2015 enacted in the 2025 legislative session, RCW 82.14 Local Retail Sales and Use Taxes

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:

No previous council action on this agenda item

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND:

The Washington State Legislature adopted HB 2015 during the 2025 session. HB 2015 provides two mechanisms for local public safety funding; a grant and a councilmanic sales tax.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

Presentation only. No financial impact at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR MOTION:

No action requested

STAFF CONTACT: Kirk Johnson, Finance Director, Cathy Doriot, Police Chief

ATTACHMENTS:

1. HB 2015 Information

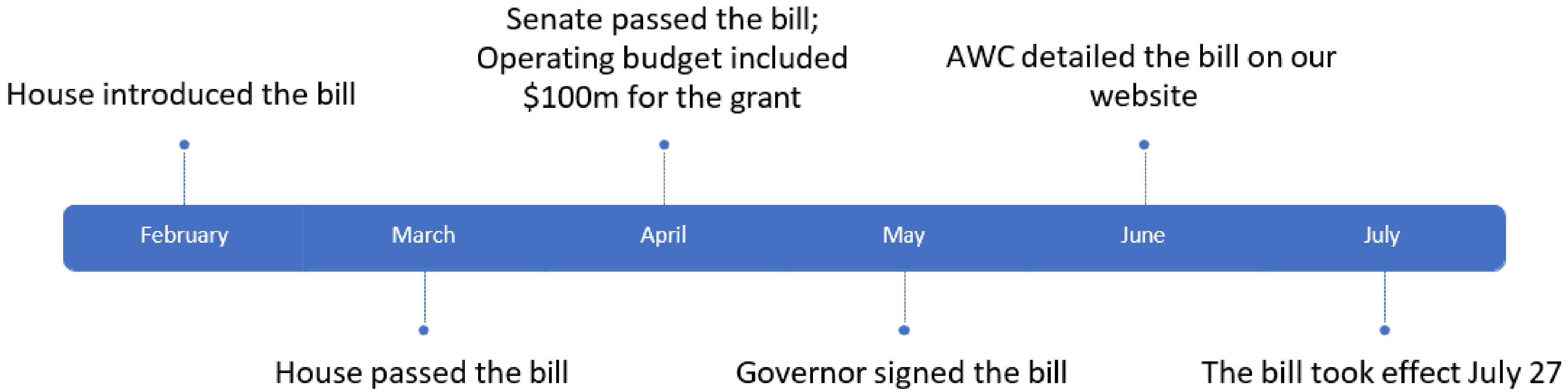
Explore public safety funding pathways via HB 2015

Information from the July 29 webinar
presented by AWC & CJTC

Disclaimer

Disclaimer: The information contained in this presentation is for general educational purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Please consult legal counsel for advice about specific questions.

Background on the bill in 2025



About HB 2015

The new law sets up two mechanisms for funding public safety:

Grant

A three-year $100 million grant program for hiring, retaining, and training new police officers and co-responders

Sales tax

A councilmanic 0.1% local sales tax authority for broad public safety and criminal justice needs

HB 2015: Two new funding mechanisms

Separate, but linked

The grant

- CJTC-administered
- $100 million program
- Expires June 2028
- Can use for hiring/training new officers & co-responders
- 75% of salary covered
- 25% local match required
- Max. $125k funding, per position
- Policy & training requirements to attain a grant
- Need to levy or receive one of three available public safety or criminal justice sales taxes first

You must *qualify* for the grant to take the sales tax

You must receive or levy a public safety sales tax to get the grant

The sales tax

- Councilmanic through June 2028
- 0.1% tax on sales & use
- Permanent
- Broad use for public safety
- Stackable with other taxes & jurisdictions
- Need to meet the same requirements as the grant
- Do not need to apply for or receive the grant, just qualify for it

New local option sales tax

The bill allows the legislative body of a city and/or county to establish a new local option 0.1% sales and use tax.

To be eligible, cities must meet the same requirements laid out for grant eligibility.

Sales tax quick facts

Local legislative authority:

The tax can be imposed by councilmanic action through June 30, 2028

Permanent:

Once passed by the council, the sales tax is permanent

Stackable:

The taxes can stack with other sales taxes and jurisdictions; and revenues are not shared with other jurisdictions

Broad use:

The new 0.1% sales tax can be used for broadly defined "criminal justice purposes"

Requirements:

A city or county can only collect the tax if it meets all the requirements of the CJTC grant (But no requirement to *apply* for the grant)

Caveat:

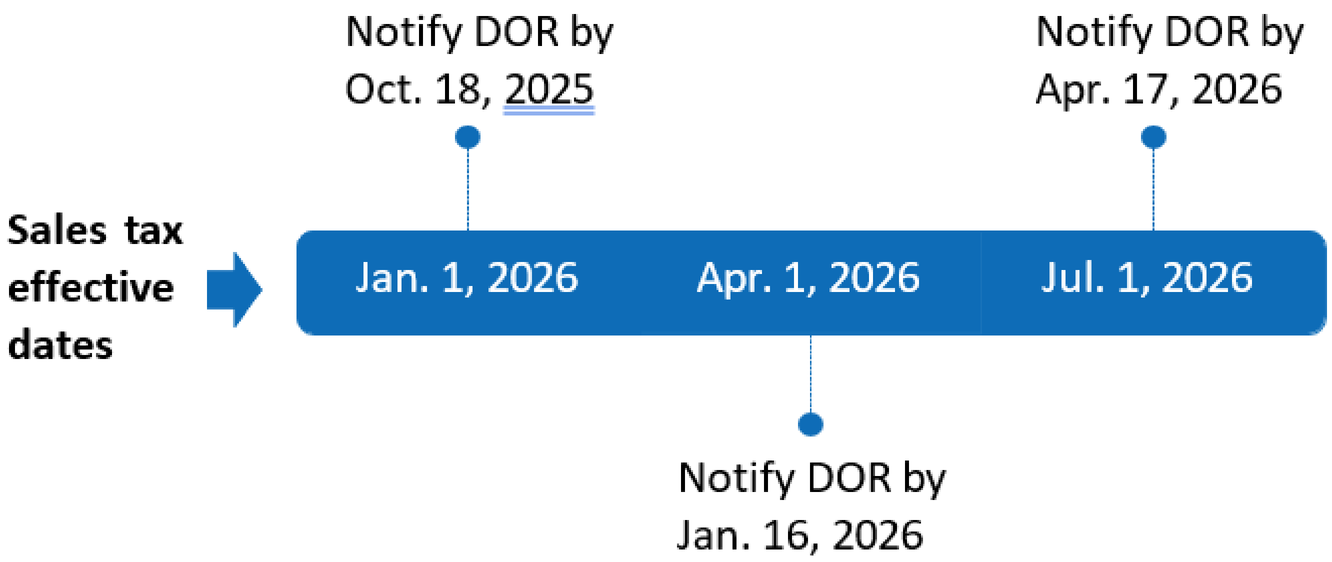
The jurisdiction's voters must not have rejected or repealed any public safety sales tax within 12 months

Timing: DOR notification deadlines

75 days prior

Before the new sales tax takes effect, cities must give DOR 75-days' notice of the passed ordinance and include a copy of it

DOR notification deadlines



Broad use for the sales tax

Criminal justice purposes, such as:

- Domestic violence services
- Public defenders
- Diversion programs
- Reentry work for inmates
- Reducing homelessness or improving behavioral health
- Community placements for juvenile offenders
- Community outreach, alternative response, mental health crisis response

Sales tax comparison

Law	Nickname	Taxing authority	Sales tax amount	Council or voter approved?	Use	Revenue sharing
RCW 82.14.340	Criminal Justice Sales Tax	County	0.1%	County Council	Criminal justice purposes	**Per capita split:** Counties receive 10%, with remaining 90% split between the county and all its cities on a per capita basis
RCW 82.14.450	Public Safety Sales Tax	City and/or county	0.1% for cities 0.3% for counties (Up to 0.3% total)	Voters (primary or general election)	1/3 use towards criminal justice and/or fire protection (other 2/3 is unrestricted)	**If city-imposed:** Revenue shared with its county (85% city, 15% county split) **If county-imposed:** Revenue shared with its cities (60% county, 40% to cities, divided per capita)
HB 2015	Public Safety Enhancement Sales Tax	City and/or county	0.1% each	City or County Council (through June 2028)	Criminal justice purposes	**No sharing requirement:** City and county can both pass and use the tax independently or in addition to the other

New grant program

The bill establishes a new state-funded grant program administered by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC).

To be eligible, cities must meet a series of policy and training requirements.

Grant program quick facts

- **Amount:** $100 million grant pool, administered by CJTC
- **Length:** Three years (expires June 30, 2028)
- **Use:** Local law enforcement agencies can use grants for:
  - **Hiring:** New officer and co-responder recruiting, hiring, and retaining (lateral hires are prohibited)
  - **Training:** Funding use of force, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and trauma-informed trainings for officers to comply with CJTC's required trainings
  - **Other:** Grants may also be used for broader law enforcement and public safety efforts
- **Limitation:** Grants can cover 75% of salary + benefits for up to three years
  - (Up to a maximum of $125,000 per position)
- **City or county must:**
  - Receive funding from an existing sales tax for public safety, or authorize the new one
  - Comply with new policies on agency leader qualifications and volunteer limitations
  - Implement trainings and data reporting in alignment with CJTC capacity
- **Co-response priority:**
  - Top funding priority goes to grant applications to start co-response or community immersion law enforcement programs
  - Second priority goes to agencies with existing co-response programs
  - Applications from all other agencies get next priority

Grants may also be used for broader public safety efforts, including:

- Emergency management planning
- Environmental hazard mitigations
- Security personnel
- Community outreach and assistance programs
- Alternative response programs
- Mental health crisis response

Requirements to qualify for a grant and/or sales tax

- **AGO training & polices:** Established policies that comply with state law as well as the Attorney General's guidance for law enforcement practices related to citizenship status
- **CJTC trainings:** Participated in CJTC trainings related to behavioral health and first aid
- **Use of force policies:** Established policies on de-escalation and use of force that incorporate the Attorney General's guidance on duty to intervene and use of police dogs
- **Use of force database:** Complied with state laws on use of force data reporting (once that state program is operational)
- **Court-ordered firearm relinquishment:** Established policies related to civil protection orders and the court-ordered surrender of firearms
- **Crisis intervention training:** At least 25% of officers who have completed CJTC crisis intervention team training
- **Gender-based violence trainings:** 100% completion by required officers for CJTC trainings on sexual assault and gender-based violence

Requirements to qualify for a grant and/or sales tax (continued)

- **Public safety sales taxes:** Received funds from or authorized a public safety or criminal justice sales tax
- **Leadership requirements:** A police chief, sheriff, or marshal who is CJTC-certified and has no felony convictions or gross misdemeanor convictions for moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, or corruption
- **Volunteer requirements:** Establish policies for supervising agency volunteers, including insignia worn, and for restricting volunteers from enforcing criminal laws, using force, carrying weapons, or using dogs (besides search and rescue)
- **Staffing plans:** Provide detailed agency staffing reports and plans including numbers of co-response teams, administrative staff, specially commissioned officers, and officers on flexible schedules
- **911 & case-closure rates:** Provide average rates for the preceding year for 911 responses and case closures

Next Steps

- Submit Information to CJTC to verify eligibility
- Conduct first reading of Ordinance to adopt a public safety sales tax 9/25/2025
- Conduct second reading of Ordinance to adopt a public safety sales tax 10/9/2025
- Submit grant application for personnel expenses for two police officers. Time TBD pending on when the grant window opens.
- Receive notification from federal COPS grant to determine if the city will receive the grant award.