

Submitter: JL Wilson
On Behalf Of: ORCOPS
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB808

Chair Prozanski & members of the Senate Judiciary Committee -

There are some provisions of SB 808 that ORCOPS supports. There is no objection to clarifying quorum requirements. ORCOPS is also supportive of the update to the definitions of “law enforcement agency” and “law enforcement officer” to better reflect the original Legislative intent behind HB 2930 (2021).

There are some provisions that ORCOPS opposes. The removal of a labor representative and a Chief/Sheriff representative would disturb a well-struck balance with subject matter experts and community voices. The current composition of the Commission reflects the importance of community members who have actively participated in the Commission’s work to date.

The Commission was only recently established and has successfully produced work product through its Legislative charge. The Legislature should allow the Commission, as its currently comprised, to continue its important work uninterrupted.

ORCOPS wants to ensure that the legislative intent from HB 2930 (2021) is carried out, and we have seen in the last several years that removing experts or stakeholders from the table can lead to significant issues. The commission is currently correctly weighted, and no concerns have surfaced to date. Changing the makeup with no causal reason will lead to less communication amongst those impacted by the committees work.

For these reasons ORCOPS opposes the bill as currently written although there are elements of the bill we support.