

## CHAPTER 88.

[H. B. 431.]

## CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

AN ACT relating to crime, and the powers and duties of the Governor, attorney general, and prosecuting attorneys in criminal prosecutions.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. The attorney general shall, upon the written request of the governor, investigate violations of the criminal laws within this state. If, after such investigation, the attorney general shall believe that the criminal laws are improperly enforced in any county, and that the prosecuting attorney of that county has failed or neglected to institute and prosecute violations of such criminal laws, either generally or with regard to a specific offense or classes of offenses, then the attorney general shall direct such prosecuting attorney to take such action in connection with any prosecution or prosecutions as the attorney general shall determine to be necessary and proper. If any prosecuting attorney after the receipt of such instructions from the attorney general shall fail or neglect to comply with such instructions within a reasonable time, the attorney general is hereby authorized to initiate and prosecute such criminal prosecutions as he shall determine. In connection therewith, the attorney general shall have the same powers as would otherwise be vested in the prosecuting attorney. From the time the attorney general shall have initiated or taken over a criminal prosecution, the prosecuting attorney shall not have power or authority to take any legal steps relating to such prosecution except as authorized or directed by the attorney general.

Passed the House, March 11, 1937.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1937.

Approved by the Governor March 13, 1937.

Attorney General to investigate violations of criminal laws.

Failure of prosecuting attorney to act.