
HOUSE BILL 1413

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Wineberry, Jacobsen, Prentice and Anderson.

Read first time January 29, 1991. Referred to Committee on Human Services\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to treatment programs for African-American juvenile
2 offenders; adding a new section to chapter 13.40 RCW; creating new
3 sections; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a destructive
6 lifestyle of drug and street gang activity is rapidly becoming
7 prevalent among the state's African-American youth. African-American
8 youth in this state are more likely to become addicted to drugs or
9 alcohol, live in poverty, experience high unemployment, be
10 incarcerated, and die of violence than other youths. The legislature
11 also finds that the needs of African-American youth who are involved in
12 criminal activity are not currently being met by state programs. These
13 youth can benefit from the establishment of programs which seek to
14 restore physical, mental, and spiritual health; instill an interest in
15 learning; teach respect for others; foster self esteem and pride; and

1 foster the establishment of positive ties with the community.
2 Therefore, the legislature directs the department of social and health
3 services to establish a three-step transitional treatment program for
4 African-American youth in the custody of the department under chapter
5 13.40. RCW

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 13.40 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The department shall contract with a community-based nonprofit
9 organization to establish a three-step transitional treatment program
10 for African-American juvenile offenders committed to the custody of the
11 department under this chapter. Participation in the program shall be
12 on a voluntary basis. The program shall provide six to twenty-four
13 months of treatment. The program shall emphasize the principles of
14 self-determination, unity, collective work and responsibility,
15 cooperative economics, and creativity. The three-step program shall
16 include:

17 (1) An institution-based program which shall provide comprehensive
18 drug and alcohol services, individual and family counseling, and a
19 wilderness experience of constructive group living, rigorous physical
20 exercise, and academic studies;

21 (2) A community-based structured group living program which shall
22 focus on individual goals, positive community involvement, coordinated
23 drug and alcohol treatment, coordinated individual and family
24 counseling, academic and vocational training, and employment in
25 apprenticeship, internship, and entrepreneurial programs; and

26 (3) A transitional group living program which shall provide support
27 services, academic services, and coordinated individual and family
28 counseling.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department of social and health
2 services shall contract with an independent research organization to
3 conduct an evaluation of the model program established under section 2
4 of this act. The evaluation shall include a review of the type of
5 offender served, services provided, effects on educational and
6 vocational achievement, and recidivism. The evaluation shall also
7 include a determination of the program's applicability to other groups
8 of juvenile offenders.

9 (2) The organization selected shall provide a preliminary report on
10 the model program to appropriate standing committees of the senate and
11 house of representatives by September 15, 1992. A final report shall be
12 submitted to appropriate standing committees of the senate and house of
13 representatives by January 15, 1993.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of _____ dollars, or
15 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
16 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the department of social
17 and health services for the purposes of this act.