
HOUSE BILL 1686

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

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By Representatives Hargrove, Riley, Tate, Prentice, Padden, H. Myers, Kremen, Dorn, Morris, Jacobsen, Roland, Pruitt, Valle, Betrozoff, Brekke, Paris, Scott, Inslee, Basich, Sheldon and Wineberry.

Read first time February 6, 1991. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to correctional industries; adding new sections to
2 chapter 72.60 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the lack of
5 sufficient, appropriate, innovative, and meaningful work incentives
6 programs in prison has contributed to the lack of a positive work ethic
7 among offenders. This condition has resulted in an unfortunately high
8 and increasing number of offenders who are unable to successfully
9 transition to the working environment outside the prison. It also
10 results in a high rate of recidivism, a harsher prison environment, and
11 a higher likelihood that both society and the state will pay higher
12 long-term prison costs. Furthermore, the legislature finds that
13 meaningful training and education programs, combined with an
14 opportunity to turn increased productivity or newly acquired skills
15 into higher in-prison wages and improved accommodations, will serve to

1 help offenders develop and acquire better work habits, learn necessary
2 work skills, achieve a valuable sense of self worth, and gain
3 educational opportunities that are intended to be positive for society
4 and rehabilitative for the offender.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 72.60 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The department shall develop a pilot incentive program using
8 increased wages and cells with more amenities to encourage increased
9 educational and job skills levels among inmates employed in class I and
10 II correctional industries. Participants must attend a school and be
11 working toward specific educational goals. The department shall adopt
12 rules for the operation of this pilot program.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 72.60 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 The department shall construct medium security modular units to
16 house offenders employed in class I and II correctional industries.
17 The modular units shall be designed to provide four-person, two-person,
18 and single cells as part of an incentive plan to encourage offenders to
19 continue positive programming, meet their legal financial obligations,
20 and pay at least the difference in capitalized construction cost per
21 cell between an enhanced pilot prison cell built for this incentive
22 program and what the average cost is for a nonenhanced cell in the same
23 facility built for inmates not in the pilot incentives program. All
24 support services, such as medical, counseling, recreation, and custody
25 shall be provided at current levels for offenders housed in the modular
26 units.

27 At least ten percent of the incentive housing constructed for this
28 program shall be reserved for inmates with five years or less remaining

1 in their sentence, to ensure greater turnover and allow more inmates to
2 participate in the program. Inmates occupying the incentive housing
3 must pay housing fees with their correctional industries income only.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 72.60 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Wage increases for class II employees shall be based on an
7 incentive/disincentive plan, tying raises with meeting or exceeding
8 educational requirements and specified job skill levels. Additionally,
9 on an incentive/disincentive basis, an offender can attain single cell
10 housing by demonstrating work maturity skills, maintaining positive
11 behavior both on and off the job, and by authorizing a higher deduction
12 for room and board.

13 Offenders applying for class I jobs must meet prescribed
14 educational and skill levels before being hired, or have to attain
15 those levels as a condition of continued employment. Wage increases
16 for class I employees shall be given at the discretion of the class I
17 employer based upon performance. Class I employees may also
18 participate in the housing incentive program.

19 The department may offer alternative work schedules to allow more
20 time for educational opportunities, such as split shifts, multiple
21 shifts, or ten-hour work days.