

---

SENATE BILL 6525

---

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators Skratek, Erwin, Sheldon and M. Rasmussen

Read first time 01/26/94. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to youth training programs; adding new sections to  
2 chapter 43.330 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department shall provide technical and  
5 financial resources to communities, school districts, and institutions  
6 that offer youth long-term positive alternatives to violence, reduce  
7 the factors contributing to youth violence, and establish strong ties  
8 between youth and their communities. The department shall establish a  
9 process to fund activities for the following direct, comprehensive  
10 economic development services to at-risk youth and their families:

11 (1) At least fifty percent of the funds appropriated in section 11  
12 of this act shall be used to provide employment assistance, including  
13 job development, school-to-work placement, employment readiness  
14 training, basic skills, apprenticeships, job mentoring, and private  
15 sector and community service employment;

16 (2) At least twenty-five percent of the funds appropriated in  
17 section 11 of this act shall be used to provide education assistance,  
18 including tutoring, mentoring, drop-out prevention, interactions with

1 role models, entrepreneurial education and projects, and employment  
2 reentry assistance services;

3 (3) No more than five percent of the funds appropriated in section  
4 11 of this act shall be used to provide peer-to-peer, group, and  
5 individual counseling, including crisis intervention, for at-risk youth  
6 and their parents;

7 (4) No more than five percent of the funds appropriated in section  
8 11 of this act shall be used to provide youth coalitions that provide  
9 opportunities to develop leadership skills and gain appropriate  
10 respect, recognition, and rewards for their positive contribution to  
11 their community; and

12 (5) No more than five percent of the funds appropriated in section  
13 11 of this act shall be used to support parental involvement, including  
14 education and training and home visits.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department shall make the funds  
16 available for purposes of section 1 of this act to community family  
17 councils, community-based private nonprofit organizations, school  
18 districts, educational service districts, juvenile institutions, Indian  
19 tribes, private industry councils, youth organizations, and local  
20 governments. The department shall consider at least the following  
21 factors when selecting projects for funding:

22 (1) Whether there was an assessment made of the factors  
23 contributing to the problem of youth violence in the community, which  
24 assessment includes empirical evidence linking these factors to youth  
25 violence, and a strategy proposed that addresses the factors  
26 identified;

27 (2) Whether there was active community and youth participation,  
28 including private sector business participation, in designing the  
29 program and in proposed implementation of the program;

30 (3) Whether there is proposed collaboration among local community  
31 entities, including private businesses, in carrying out the project;

32 (4) For employment and training components specifically, whether  
33 there is collaboration with the local business community, labor  
34 organizations, and training institutions;

35 (5) Whether there is local commitment of resources and effort to  
36 carrying out the project in the short-term as well as a long-term  
37 commitment to reducing youth violence;

1 (6) The likelihood that the project will significantly benefit  
2 youth who are at-risk or will increase public safety in areas with high  
3 rates of violent crime by juveniles;

4 (7) The experience or expertise of the sponsors to carry out the  
5 proposed project; and

6 (8) The sponsors' plan for specifically predicting and evaluating  
7 the outcomes of the project.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall provide technical  
9 assistance to applicants to increase their organizational capacity and  
10 to improve the likelihood of a successful application and, further,  
11 provide additional technical assistance and training resources to  
12 successful applicants.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall work to involve youth  
14 in its efforts to reduce youth violence.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall use all means possible  
16 to communicate to communities, and any other interested parties, state-  
17 wide information concerning the "best practices" and positive outcomes  
18 of community-based youth violence prevention and intervention projects.  
19 To accomplish this, the department may provide technical assistance  
20 through peers and state staff, create a speakers' bureau, sponsor  
21 conferences and workshops in which model programs are featured, and  
22 publish and distribute a workbook of best practices.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department shall establish a system to  
24 evaluate the effectiveness of projects using benchmarks, which are  
25 observable outcomes that are set in advance then measured at the end of  
26 the funding cycle for the programs. By January 1, 1995, the department  
27 shall report to the governor and the legislature on the system  
28 established and the outcomes achieved to date.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The legislature finds for the purposes of  
30 sections 8 and 9 of this act that employment programs for youth are a  
31 key component for reducing youth violence by providing positive  
32 employment opportunities and role models. The legislature also finds  
33 that programs addressing youth readiness for work, mentorship, and  
34 employment and training already exist in cities, counties, and

1 community groups throughout the state. The legislature further finds  
2 that existing programs could be improved with grants from the  
3 department.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The department shall operate a challenge  
5 block grant program to identify and assist successful local programs  
6 targeting at-risk youth for employment readiness, employment and  
7 training, and mentorship. The department shall review and evaluate  
8 existing youth employment readiness, mentorship, and training programs  
9 and award year-long grants for a select number that can demonstrate  
10 current success, current and prospective funding, and future promise.  
11 Grants must be used specifically either to increase the number of  
12 participants or to improve or expand services to existing participants,  
13 or both.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** An existing youth employment readiness,  
15 mentorship, or training program may apply for a grant by providing  
16 relevant information, including, but not limited to:

17 (1) A description and verification of existing funding and  
18 projected funding from existing sources;

19 (2) A detailed description of the program's history and design,  
20 including an evaluative history with analysis of funding sources;

21 (3) A current list of participant youth and former participants  
22 with outcome-based evaluations of failure and success of individual  
23 program participants;

24 (4) A current list of participant mentors, businesses, employers,  
25 or educators, as well as any former participant mentors, businesses,  
26 employers, or educators and their own anecdotal and subjective  
27 evaluations of the program;

28 (5) A current evaluation of the program completed by the current  
29 funding sources;

30 (6) An analysis of needed additional funding complete with a  
31 description of the ways it will be allocated and specific outcome  
32 benchmarks that the additional funding is projected to achieve; and

33 (7) A proposed method of self-evaluation using the benchmarks,  
34 which evaluation can in turn be used by the department for further  
35 funding decisions.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    Sections 1 through 9 of this act are each  
2 added to chapter 43.330 RCW.

3        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 11.**    The sum of . . . . . dollars, or as much  
4 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending  
5 June 30, 1995, from the general fund--state to the department of  
6 community, trade, and economic development for the purposes of this  
7 act.

--- END ---