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HOUSE BILL 2546

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Radcliff, Ballasiotes, Dickerson, Costa and O'Brien

Read first time 01/15/98. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to rehabilitating juvenile offenders through art  
2 education; adding a new section to chapter 13.40 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; 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 rates of violent  
6 offenses and substance abuse are increasing within the juvenile  
7 population. Research has shown that allowing juveniles to express  
8 their feelings positively through art reduces recidivism and substance  
9 abuse. Introducing at-risk youth to the joys, rewards, and value of  
10 education through culturally relevant, experimental activities such as  
11 art and humanities projects provides a way to reduce the recidivism of  
12 juvenile offenders. The juvenile rehabilitation administration of the  
13 department of social and health services and the experimental gallery  
14 of the children's museum have implemented a project designed to  
15 alleviate recidivism by helping institutional staff and schools meet  
16 the special educational and social needs of juvenile offenders. The  
17 experimental gallery addresses the continuing impact of youth crime and  
18 violence by teaching these youth to use aggression-replacement  
19 techniques, such as art, as alternatives to violence. Art education

1 may raise academic and vocational skills, increase juvenile self-  
2 esteem, and improve behavior within juvenile institutions. Expansion  
3 of the experimental gallery art program is necessary to teach  
4 responsible citizenship through the arts and humanities to youth at  
5 risk of entering the corrections system.

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

8 The juvenile rehabilitation administration of the department of  
9 social and health services shall contract with the children's museum  
10 for the expansion of the experimental gallery program.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred fifty thousand  
12 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from  
13 the general fund to the juvenile rehabilitation administration of the  
14 department of social and health services for the fiscal year ending  
15 June 30, 1999, to carry out the purposes of this act. These funds are  
16 provided solely to contract with the children's museum for the  
17 expansion of the experimental gallery program.

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