
HOUSE BILL 2572

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Ballasiotes, Radcliff, Lambert, Costa, O'Brien, Tokuda, Cole, Dickerson, Kessler, Constantine and Wood

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

1 AN ACT Relating to treatment for alcoholism, intoxication, and drug
2 addiction; adding a new section to chapter 70.96A 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.** (1) The legislature finds that there is an
6 increase in the jail and prison population that is directly
7 attributable to the upsurge in the prosecution of drug charges and
8 related crimes fueled by drug abuse.

9 (2) One innovative approach to handling this problem is a program
10 that integrates substance abuse treatment with the processing of
11 criminal cases. These programs, known as "drug courts," rely on the
12 strong collaboration among judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and
13 related supporting agencies, and a partnership with treatment agencies
14 and other community organizations.

15 (3) Research demonstrates the effectiveness of treatment coupled
16 with criminal justice intervention through drug courts. Drug courts
17 are successful because there is:

18 (a) A reduction in criminal behavior resulting in fewer repeat
19 offenders;

1 (b) Strict accountability and certainty of response to unacceptable
2 behavior;

3 (c) Better use of limited jail space resulting in fewer addicted
4 prisoners and more jail space for those who pose public safety risks;

5 (d) Improved delivery of treatment services resulting in more
6 effective treatment for a significant population of substance abusers;

7 (e) Effective disease prevention and treatment resulting in better
8 health status for substance abusers as well as prevention and treatment
9 of infectious diseases; and

10 (f) Improved productivity because of greater employment and reduced
11 dependence on social services and health systems.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.96A RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The department shall contract with counties operating drug
15 courts for the provision of drug and alcohol treatment services. At
16 least eighty percent of funds provided pursuant to this section shall
17 be used for direct services to clients, with not more than ten percent
18 to be used for administration and an outcome evaluation, including
19 measures of recidivism and reoffense rates.

20 (2) For the purposes of this section, "drug court" means a court
21 that has special calendars or dockets designed to achieve a reduction
22 in recidivism and substance abuse among nonviolent, substance abusing
23 offenders by increasing their likelihood for successful rehabilitation
24 through early, continuous, and intense judicially supervised treatment;
25 mandatory periodic drug testing; and the use of appropriate sanctions
26 and other rehabilitation services.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of dollars, or as much
28 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
29 June 30, 1999, from the general fund to the department of social and
30 health services for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

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