

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1058

As Reported By House Committee On:

Criminal Justice & Corrections

Title: An act relating to deterring juvenile violence.

Brief Description: Creating a grant program to reduce the number of juvenile offenders.

Sponsors: Representatives Tokuda, Radcliff, O'Brien, Ballasiotes, Anderson, Kenney, Stensen, Keiser, Kessler, Veloria, Dunshee, Dickerson, Ogden, Lantz, Rockefeller, Hurst, Regala, Cooper, Scott, Schual-Berke, Conway, Santos, Wood, Kagi and McIntire.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Criminal Justice & Corrections: 2/3/99, 2/10/99 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Creates a new chapter called the Juvenile Violence Deterrence Act of 1998.
- Creates a \$5 million grant program to be used by local entities and organizations to deter juvenile violence and delinquency.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CORRECTIONS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Ballasiotes, Republican Co-Chair; O'Brien, Democratic Co-Chair; Cairnes, Republican Vice Chair; Lovick, Democratic Vice Chair; B. Chandler; Constantine; Kagi and Koster.

Staff: Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

Background:

Youth early intervention programs are designed to deter juvenile violence and delinquency and promote development. Many programs are operated by such organizations as nonprofit, civic and charitable organizations, local governments, tribes,

and community networks. They offer programs that include substance abuse, family and individual counseling, youth parenting, youth advocacy, and family intervention programs, just to name a few. Youth development and delinquency intervention programs are designed to reduce juvenile violence and make families whole again.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

New Chapter. This act creates a new chapter in Title 13 (Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Offenders) of the RCW (Revised Code of Washington) to be called the Juvenile Violence Deterrence Act of 1998. The act will create a grant program to be used by local entities and organizations to deter juvenile violence and delinquency.

Responsibility of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee is required to administer the newly created Juvenile Violence Grant Program and, in order to encourage grant applications, the committee must simplify the grant application process to the greatest extent possible.

All entities applying for one of these grants must specifically:

- (a) Identify the program or proposed program;
- (b) Identify the entity or organization proposing the program. Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to, nonprofit, civic and charitable organizations, local governments, tribes, and community networks;
- (c) Include a budget for the expenditures of requested grant funds and specify what percentage of the grant will be spent on administration and evaluation costs; and
- (d) Include a plan to analyze the effectiveness of the program.

The committee may require that a percentage of the expenditures from a received grant be spent to evaluate the program's effectiveness. The committee may also require that the evaluation be conducted by individuals or organizations that are not participating in the program.

Entities Applying for Grants. A program is eligible for a Juvenile Violence Prevention Grant if the program:

- (a) Is designed to reduce conditions associated with the entry of youth into the juvenile justice system;
- (b) Is a new program or replicates in another location an existing program that meets the criteria of this chapter;
- (c) Is based on research that supports the program's effectiveness in reducing the targeted population's risk for delinquency;
- (d) Has community support and is community-based;

- (e) Will be used for prevention of juvenile crime and not as a disposition or confinement option for adjudicated or diverted juvenile offenders. The program is not precluded from serving juveniles who have been adjudicated or diverted prior to participation in the program or who are diverted or adjudicated during participation in the program; and
- (f) Is in addition to any other state or locally funded juvenile violence deterrence program.

Any funding from this grant cannot supplant existing federal, state, or local funds.

Grants. To encourage local ownership of Juvenile Violence Deterrence Programs, grants awarded by the committee must:

- (a) Have a duration of up to two years, with renewal options based on the achievement of outcomes; and
- (b) Not exceed more than 75 percent of the total estimated cost of a program. Entities or organizations applying for grants must demonstrate that at least 25 percent of the cost of the program will be funded from non-state funds.

Review Team. A review team must be established to make recommendations to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee on the funding of grants.

The review team will consist of a maximum of 15 people appointed by the committee. Appointees must represent the state's geographic and cultural diversity and have demonstrated an interest in juvenile violence and its prevention. The review team must include representatives from, but not limited to, Juvenile Court Administration, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy, the Family Policy Council, the Department of Health, the Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse within the Department of Social and Health Services.

Review team members are eligible for reimbursement of expenses under the per diem allowance system for elective and appointed officials.

Funding. The sum of \$5 million is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 2001 from the state's general fund to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee for implementation of these grant programs.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

A review team was to be established to make recommendations to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee on the funding of grants. The team was to consist of 15 people representing a variety of organizations, one of which included the Stop

Youth Violence Advisory Committee. The Stop Youth Violence Advisory Committee is a group that no longer exists.

A sum of \$5 million was to be appropriated from the Violence Reduction and Drug Enforcement Account to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee for implementation of the grant programs. Funding in the Violence Reduction and Drug Enforcement Account no longer exists. As a result, funding for the grant program will now be funded from the state's general fund.

Appropriation: The sum of \$5 million.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: (Original bill) This is a visionary bill that will allow local communities to target prevention efforts to reduce juvenile violence in their areas.

Studies have shown that prevention stops juvenile crime. It costs approximately \$22,000 per year for incarceration, which is much more than what an average person would pay for college tuition costs.

Programs funded by the grants provided in this bill will give focus to those youth before they have a chance to enter the court system. The need is there to shift the state's emphasis from after-the-fact incarceration of juvenile offenders, to approaches which offer some hope of eventual remediation of the issue.

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee is already familiar with grant programs and has worked cooperatively with the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in administering federal grants. In addition, other pilot delinquency prevention programs are currently used throughout the state and are known to provide early prevention, early intervention, family strengthening, and enhanced academic skills for children. They are proven to lower crime in many communities.

Without more resources out there for communities to use, more youth may end up on the street and in our courts.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: (In support) Norm Maleng, King County Prosecutor's Office; Harv Ferguson, Seattle Police Department; Larry Erickson, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs; John Turner, Mountlake Terrace Police; Marilee Roloff, Governor's

Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee; Peter Berliner, Children's Alliance; Martha Harden, Superior Court Judge's Association; Mike Patrick, Washington State Council of Police and Sheriffs; and Shirley Stallings, Compass Health.