

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6240

C 16 L 02
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Clarifying the procedure for providing offenders with a certificate of discharge.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Shin, Kline, Regala, Prentice and Costa).

Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections
House Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections

Background: Concerns have been raised that offenders who have completed all the requirements of their sentence and parole may not be aware that they have had the right to vote restored. Currently, the Department of Corrections (DOC) sends notice to the sentencing court when an offender has completed his or her sentence and the court provides the offender with a certificate of discharge restoring their right to vote. In some cases, the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) may independently issue a certificate of discharge to the offender upon completion of the offender's sentence.

This bill is intended to help give notice to offenders that the right to vote has been restored.

Summary: When a sentencing court receives notice from DOC that an offender has completed all requirements including all legal financial obligations of his or her sentence, the court issues a certificate of discharge to the offender either in person or by mail. DOC only sends notice to the sentencing court if the offender is under the supervision of the department. The court also sends a copy of the certification to the county's auditor and to DOC. When the ISRB determines that an offender has completed all the requirements of his or her sentence, it also delivers a certification to the offender and sends a copy to the county auditor and DOC. DOC maintains a data base of the certificates of discharge.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	73	22

Effective: June 13, 2002