
HOUSE BILL 2455

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Darneille, Santos, Murray, Dickerson, Veloria, McIntire, Lovick, Miloscia, Chase and Fisher

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to restoring voting rights to felons upon
2 completion of supervision; adding new sections to chapter 9.94A RCW;
3 and adding a new section to chapter 9.96 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.94A RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) When a person who has been convicted of one or more felonies
8 has completed all of the requirements of all of his or her sentences,
9 except for legal financial obligations, the secretary or the
10 secretary's designee shall issue a certificate of restoration of the
11 right to vote to the offender. A continuing obligation to refrain from
12 contacting certain persons or being in certain locations is not
13 affected by, and shall not bar, the issuance of this certificate.

14 (2) The certificate shall be provided to the offender in person or
15 by mailing the certificate to the offender's last known address. It
16 shall also be sent to the secretary of state and the county auditor for
17 the county of the offender's last known address. In making a
18 reasonable effort to assure that the notice reaches the offender, the
19 department shall utilize likely sources of current address information,

1 such as the department of licensing, and shall take steps to ascertain
2 that the person to whom the notice is sent is accurately identified.
3 The department shall maintain an easily accessible record of the
4 issuance of the certificate.

5 (3) The certificate shall have the sole effect of restoring the
6 voting right of the offender, and the certificate shall so state.
7 Nothing in this section affects or prevents the enforcement of legal
8 financial obligations or the offender's obligation to comply with an
9 order issued under chapter 10.99 RCW that excludes or prohibits the
10 offender from having contact with a specified person or coming within
11 a set distance of any specified location that was contained in the
12 judgment and sentence.

13 (4) The department shall issue certificates of restoration of the
14 right to vote to all felony offenders who have completed all of the
15 requirements of their sentences prior to the effective date of this
16 act, except for legal financial obligations, if a certificate of
17 discharge has not previously been issued for that offender under RCW
18 9.94A.637. The department shall utilize the same procedures for notice
19 as set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9.96 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) When an offender has completed all of the requirements of all
23 of his or her sentences, except for legal financial obligations, the
24 indeterminate sentencing review board shall issue a certificate of
25 restoration of the right to vote to the offender. A continuing
26 obligation to refrain from contacting certain persons or being in
27 certain locations is not affected by, and shall not bar, the issuance
28 of this certificate.

29 (2) The certificate shall be provided to the offender in person or
30 by mailing the certificate to the offender's last known address. It
31 shall also be sent to the secretary of state and the county auditor for
32 the county of the offender's last known address. In making a
33 reasonable effort to assure that the notice reaches the offender, the
34 board shall utilize likely sources of current address information, such
35 as the department of licensing, and shall take steps to ascertain that
36 the person to whom the notice is sent is accurately identified. The
37 department of corrections shall maintain an easily accessible record of
38 the issuance of the certificate.

1 (3) The certificate shall have the sole effect of restoring the
2 voting right of the offender, and the certificate shall so state.
3 Nothing in this section affects or prevents the enforcement of legal
4 financial obligations or the offender's obligation to comply with an
5 order issued under chapter 10.99 RCW that excludes or prohibits the
6 offender from having contact with a specified person or coming within
7 a set distance of any specified location that was contained in the
8 judgment and sentence.

9 (4) The board shall issue certificates of restoration of the right
10 to vote to all felony offenders who have completed all of the
11 requirements of their sentences prior to the effective date of this
12 act, except for legal financial obligations, if a certificate of
13 discharge has not previously been issued for that offender under RCW
14 9.96.050. The board shall utilize the same procedures for notice as
15 set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 9.94A RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) When an offender has completed all of the requirements of all
19 of his or her federal or out-of-state felony sentences, except for
20 legal financial obligations, the clemency and pardons board shall issue
21 a certificate of restoration of the right to vote to the offender. A
22 continuing obligation to refrain from contacting certain persons or
23 being in certain locations is not affected by, and shall not bar, the
24 issuance of this certificate.

25 (2) The certificate shall be provided to the offender in person or
26 by mailing the certificate to the offender's last known address. It
27 shall also be sent to the secretary of state and the county auditor for
28 the county of the offender's last known address. In making a
29 reasonable effort to assure that the notice reaches the offender, the
30 board shall utilize likely sources of current address information, such
31 as the department of licensing, and shall take steps to ascertain that
32 the person to whom the notice is sent is accurately identified. The
33 department of corrections shall maintain an easily accessible record of
34 the issuance of the certificate.

35 (3) The certificate shall have the sole effect of restoring the
36 voting right of the offender, and the certificate shall so state.
37 Nothing in this section affects or prevents the enforcement of legal
38 financial obligations or the offender's obligation to comply with an

1 order issued that excludes or prohibits the offender from having
2 contact with a specified person or coming within a set distance of any
3 specified location that was contained in the judgment and sentence.

4 (4) The board shall issue certificates of restoration of the right
5 to vote to all felony offenders who have completed all of the
6 requirements of their sentences prior to the effective date of this
7 act, except for legal financial obligations. The board shall utilize
8 the same procedures for notice as set forth in subsection (2) of this
9 section.

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