
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2025

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Goodman, Klippert, Pettigrew, Hayes, Griffey, Chapman, and Jinkins)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the development and implementation
2 of a comprehensive plan to improve offender programs; and adding new
3 sections to chapter 72.09 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 72.09
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The legislature recognizes the importance of reducing recidivism
8 in the criminal justice system. Most people who are incarcerated will
9 return to the community, yet more than half of people currently being
10 imprisoned have been in prison before. This cycle of crime hinders
11 public safety and is costly to taxpayers. In recent years the
12 legislature has engaged in considerable efforts to provide responsive
13 evidence-based programming specific to decreasing identified risk and
14 need. The legislature recognizes that cognitive behavioral change
15 programs should be used in an effort to reduce violence in the
16 highest levels of custody and recidivism, and reentry specific
17 programs should be used in an effort to reduce recidivism. The
18 legislature has required a systematic shift towards evidence-based
19 and research-based practices and has continued to focus state
20 resources on effective programs in the field of adult corrections.

1 The legislature intends to expand upon these efforts by requiring
2 the department to assess and implement reentry specific programs on
3 an ongoing basis. The legislature intends for state funds
4 appropriated in the omnibus appropriations act for cognitive
5 behavioral change programs and reentry specific programs to be
6 prioritized for evidence-based and research-based practices, but not
7 to preclude promising practices. The legislature does not intend to
8 stifle innovation or new development for cognitive behavioral change
9 programs and reentry specific programs. Instead, the department must
10 use evidence-based and research-based practices as a lens through
11 which to evaluate cognitive behavioral change programs and reentry
12 specific programs going forward. However, the legislature intends
13 that the department not fund any cognitive behavioral change program
14 and reentry specific program that does not reduce recidivism, prison
15 violence, or readmission to prison to a statistically significant
16 degree when evaluated over a reasonable period of time.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The department shall develop and implement a comprehensive
20 plan for cognitive behavioral change programs and reentry specific
21 programs. The plan must prioritize funding for and implementation of
22 programs that:

23 (a) Follow the risk needs responsivity model;

24 (b) Focus on higher risk offenders, including violent and
25 nonviolent offenders, unless otherwise required by law;

26 (c) Are deemed evidence-based or research-based by the institute
27 or Washington State University, or are recognized in a nationally
28 observed repository including, but not limited to, the national
29 institute of justice, national institute of corrections, or the
30 substance abuse and mental health services administration's national
31 registry of evidence-based programs and practices; and

32 (d) Have measurable outcomes including, but not limited to,
33 reducing recidivism and readmissions to correctional institutions
34 below current levels.

35 (2)(a) The department shall discontinue ineffective cognitive
36 behavioral change programs and reentry specific programs and
37 practices, and repurpose underspent funds according to the priorities
38 in the plan. The department may not cancel or discontinue a
39 successful program that reduces recidivism in favor of implementing a

1 new program without empirical data showing the same or better
2 outcomes, unless otherwise required by law.

3 (b) Within amounts provided in the omnibus operating
4 appropriations act for cognitive behavioral change programs and
5 reentry specific programs, the department may allocate up to five
6 percent for the piloting and researching of programs deemed promising
7 practices.

8 (3) The department shall submit a report by December 1st of each
9 even-numbered year, beginning in 2018, to the council, the governor,
10 and the appropriate committees of the legislature regarding the
11 department's compliance with this section. The report must: (a)
12 Include a summary of the comprehensive plan; (b) analyze state funds
13 allocated to cognitive behavioral change programs and reentry
14 specific programs, including percentages and amounts of funds used in
15 evidence-based and research-based practices and the number of people
16 being served; (c) identify discontinued and newly implemented
17 cognitive behavioral change programs and reentry specific programs,
18 including information used by the department in evaluating the
19 effectiveness of discontinued and implemented programs; and (d)
20 provide recommendations to improve program outcomes, including
21 recommended strategies, deadlines, and funding. The department shall
22 respond to the council's inquiries and requests with respect to
23 programs and consider the council's recommendations when developing
24 and updating the comprehensive plan required under this section.

25 (4) For the purposes of this section:

26 (a) "Cognitive behavioral change programs" means offender change
27 programs in correctional facilities and community settings using
28 state funds. These programs are focused on restructuring of offender
29 thoughts and behaviors that lead to more prosocial interactions in
30 the community and provide the necessary skills for offenders to make
31 better choices that lead to lower recidivism and safer communities.
32 This term also includes contracted programs provided by third-party
33 entities and paid for with state funds.

34 (b) "Council" means the Washington statewide reentry council.

35 (c) "Institute" means the Washington institute for public policy.

36 (d) "Reentry specific programs" means all programs and services
37 provided in correctional facilities and community settings using
38 state funds, whose primary purpose is to reduce recidivism. This term

1 also includes contracted programs provided by third-party entities
2 and paid for with state funds.

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