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HOUSE BILL 2287

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Hayes, Ortiz-Self, Eslick, Ryu, Harmsworth, Sells, Peterson, Van Werven, Pellicciotti, Klippert, Goodman, Kloba, Tarleton, Fey, Santos, Smith, Tharinger, Dolan, Valdez, Stanford, Appleton, Lovick, Doglio, Griffey, and Stonier

Prefiled 12/15/17. Read first time 01/08/18. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a criminal justice system  
2 diversion center pilot project; adding a new section to chapter  
3 36.28A RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that local  
6 communities are struggling to identify solutions for addressing  
7 certain populations of high needs individuals who have frequent  
8 contact with law enforcement and are often homeless and impacted by  
9 behavioral health issues. The legislature recognizes that a  
10 coordinated and multidisciplinary approach is needed in order to  
11 remedy the root causes of criminogenic and other behaviors underlying  
12 the interactions between these individuals and the criminal justice  
13 system. To this end, the legislature intends to establish a pilot  
14 site in which the most critical needs of these individuals can be  
15 addressed in one place, such as housing, behavioral health treatment,  
16 employment, and expedient connection to other needed services.

17 The legislature intends to measure the impacts of this innovative  
18 partnership between law enforcement and human services in targeted  
19 areas, including criminal justice recidivism rates, engagement in  
20 services, and housing stability. If successful, the pilot will  
21 establish a template for systems collaboration and targeted delivery

1 of services that can be replicated in other communities that are  
2 attempting to address the same issues, thereby improving public  
3 safety, making more efficient use of limited resources, and  
4 instilling lasting and positive change within individual community  
5 members.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the  
9 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs must administer  
10 a criminal justice system diversion center pilot project. The primary  
11 objective of the pilot project is to make improvements in several  
12 areas with respect to target populations, including: Reducing  
13 recidivism; reducing the use of crisis and emergency resources;  
14 decreasing behaviors associated with untreated mental health and  
15 substance use disorders; increasing effective engagement with  
16 treatment providers; increasing housing stability; increasing  
17 engagement in prosocial activity; and increasing rates of employment  
18 and financial self-sufficiency.

19 (2) The pilot project must include one grant award to an eligible  
20 applicant, which must be selected and begin receiving grant funds by  
21 July 1, 2018. The Washington association of sheriffs and police  
22 chiefs must adopt policies and procedures necessary to administer the  
23 pilot project, including policies and procedures for:

- 24 (a) The application process;  
25 (b) Disbursement of the grant award to the selected applicant;  
26 (c) Tracking compliance and proper use of funds; and  
27 (d) Measuring outcomes.

28 (3) An eligible applicant must:

29 (a) Be a county located west of the crest of the Cascade mountain  
30 range with a population of not less than seven hundred fifty thousand  
31 and not more than eight hundred fifteen thousand residents, and also  
32 contain a city with a population of not less than ninety thousand and  
33 not more than one hundred fifty thousand residents; and

34 (b) Have established or be willing to establish a coordinated  
35 effort with committed partners.

36 (4) The grant recipient shall:

37 (a) Establish approximately forty residential beds to be used for  
38 short-term placements of up to ninety days, with placement  
39 prioritized for the following populations:

1 (i) Individuals referred by law enforcement who are suspected of  
2 having committed nonviolent crimes and whose behavior is suspected to  
3 be influenced by a behavioral health issue;

4 (ii) Individuals referred by social workers embedded with law  
5 enforcement agencies who have previous involvement in the criminal  
6 justice system and who are awaiting inpatient residential treatment  
7 or are working toward self-sufficiency following inpatient treatment;  
8 and

9 (iii) Individuals with behavioral health issues who are being  
10 released from jail, and are working with available reentry services  
11 to address needs and secure housing;

12 (b) Provide skilled staff twenty-four hours per day and seven  
13 days per week to deliver:

14 (i) Medical screening at intake and medical support throughout  
15 the stay at the facility;

16 (ii) Thorough needs assessment services;

17 (iii) Assertive engagement into available services;

18 (iv) Individualized support and recovery plan development; and

19 (v) Facilitated contact with treatment providers, employment  
20 services, housing, and other supports necessary to access appropriate  
21 services;

22 (c) Provide a site for the pilot project in a location that  
23 provides convenient access to relevant programming, such as:

24 (i) Housing and essential needs assistance;

25 (ii) Homelessness services;

26 (iii) Veterans' services;

27 (iv) Behavioral health services;

28 (v) Employment services;

29 (vi) Department of social and health services' community  
30 services; and

31 (vii) Other services as necessary;

32 (d) Identify and maintain consistent, experienced, and committed  
33 leadership for managing the grant, including an administrator who  
34 acts as an available point of contact with the Washington association  
35 of sheriffs and police chiefs; and

36 (e) Collect and report data and information as needed for  
37 compiling the report required in subsection (5) of this section.

38 (5) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs  
39 shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the  
40 legislature by December 1, 2019. The grant recipient must provide the

1 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs with a draft  
2 analysis and report by October 1, 2019. The draft and final reports  
3 must contain, at a minimum:

4 (a) A comparison of the number of arrest bookings and jail bed  
5 days for individuals served in the pilot project, including data from  
6 both six months and one year before admission to the pilot project as  
7 well as, whenever possible, data from six months and one year  
8 following admission to the pilot project;

9 (b) An analysis of connections to behavioral health services  
10 among individuals served in the pilot project, including data from  
11 both six months and one year before admission to the pilot project as  
12 well as, whenever possible, data from six months and one year  
13 following admission to the pilot project;

14 (c) A comparison of impacts to housing stability for individuals  
15 served in the pilot project, including data from both six months and  
16 one year before admission to the pilot project as well as, whenever  
17 possible, data from six months and one year following admission to  
18 the pilot project; and

19 (d) The number of individuals who, through participation in the  
20 pilot project:

- 21 (i) Were connected to a detox program;
- 22 (ii) Completed a detox program;
- 23 (iii) Completed a chemical dependency assessment;
- 24 (iv) Completed chemical dependency treatment; and
- 25 (v) Were connected to housing.
- 26 (6) This section expires July 1, 2020.

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