
HOUSE BILL 1412

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Wineberry, Padden, Jacobsen, Tate, Prentice, Paris, Locke, Belcher, O'Brien, Leonard and Anderson.

Read first time January 29, 1991. Referred to Committee on Human Services\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to racial disproportionality in the juvenile
2 justice system; creating new sections; making an appropriation;
3 providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the number of
6 minority youth arrested, detained, and incarcerated within the juvenile
7 justice system has significantly increased from seven percent in 1978
8 to over thirty-five percent in 1989 and continues to rise. The number
9 of minorities in the juvenile justice system is significantly higher
10 than their proportion of the state's population. As a result, it is
11 the legislature's intent to provide for a study to identify the causes
12 of minority disproportionality within the juvenile justice system and
13 to recommend changes, if needed, to address this growing problem.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of management services of the
2 division of children, youth, and family services within the department
3 of social and health services, in cooperation with the commission on
4 African American affairs and the governor's juvenile justice advisory
5 committee, shall contract for an independent study of racial
6 disproportionality in the juvenile justice system.

7 (1) The study shall identify key decision points in the juvenile
8 justice system where race and/or ethnicity-based disproportionality
9 exists in the treatment and incarceration of juvenile offenders. The
10 key decision points shall include, but not be limited to, arrest,
11 detainment at the time of arrest, admission to detention, release to
12 parent or other legal guardian, referral to prosecution and filing of
13 charges, juvenile court sentencing, and institutional assignment if
14 committed to the division of juvenile rehabilitation.

15 (2) The study shall also seek to identify the causes of such
16 disproportionality, propose new policies and procedures to address
17 disproportionality, and test the impact of proposed policies.

18 (3) The division of children, youth, and family services of the
19 department of social and health services shall report its findings and
20 recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
21 December 1, 1992.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of sixty-two thousand five
23 hundred dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
24 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
25 fund to the division of children, youth, and family services of the
26 department of social and health services for the purposes of this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
2 effect July 1, 1991.