

**2SSB 5433** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on College & Workforce Development

**ADOPTED 04/10/2019**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** 2017 c 120 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as  
4 follows:"

5 (1) The legislature finds that studies clearly and consistently  
6 demonstrate that incarcerated adults who obtain (~~associate degree~~)  
7 postsecondary education and training are more likely to be employed  
8 following release, which leads to a dramatic reduction in recidivism  
9 rates, significant improvements in public safety, and a major return  
10 on investment. The legislature finds that reducing recidivism would  
11 decrease the financial burden to taxpayers and the emotional burden  
12 of victims.

13 (2) The legislature finds that research indicates that  
14 (~~associate degree~~) postsecondary education and training is an  
15 effective evidence-based practice for reducing recidivism. An  
16 analysis commissioned by the United States department of justice  
17 determined that adults who received such education while incarcerated  
18 were forty-three percent less likely to recidivate.

19 (3) Ninety-five percent of incarcerated adults ultimately return  
20 to their communities to obtain employment and contribute to society.  
21 The legislature finds that according to the bureau of labor  
22 statistics, unemployment rates for people with only a high school  
23 education are twice that of those with an associate degree. Research  
24 has shown that adults who participated in such education while  
25 incarcerated were thirteen percent more likely to be employed.

26 (4) The legislature further finds that correctional education is  
27 cost-effective. A 2014 study by the Washington state institute for  
28 public policy estimated that the state received a return on  
29 investment of twenty dollars for every dollar invested in  
30 correctional education.

31 (5) It is the intent of the legislature to enhance public safety  
32 (~~by reducing~~), reduce crime (~~and increasing~~), and increase

1 employment rates in a cost-effective manner by ~~((authorizing~~  
2 ~~associate degree))~~ exploring benefits and costs associated with  
3 providing postsecondary education degree opportunities and training  
4 ~~((of))~~ to incarcerated adults through expanded partnerships between  
5 the community and technical colleges and the department of  
6 corrections.

7 (6) ~~((The legislature does not intend to provide additional~~  
8 ~~funding to the department of corrections with chapter 120, Laws of~~  
9 ~~2017 and intends that the department of corrections incorporate~~  
10 ~~associate degree education into its available educational and~~  
11 ~~vocational opportunities for offenders within existing funds set~~  
12 ~~aside for this purpose.))~~ It is the intent of the legislature to  
13 support exploring the use of secure internet connections expressly  
14 for the purposes of furthering postsecondary education degree  
15 opportunities and training of incarcerated adults. The legislature  
16 intends for the department to be able to provide complete assurance  
17 that all offender-used internet connections are secure.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) Subject to the availability of amounts  
19 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department of  
20 corrections, the state board for community and technical colleges,  
21 and the office of the chief information officer shall submit, in  
22 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, a report to the governor and the  
23 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019,  
24 including the following:

25 (a) A plan for implementing secure internet connections to  
26 achieve the purposes of this act;

27 (b) The barriers and costs associated with implementing secure  
28 internet connections for the purpose of postsecondary education and  
29 training of incarcerated individuals;

30 (c) A review of the fiscal impacts, including any estimated  
31 capital and operating costs associated with expanding current  
32 educational opportunities to include providing postsecondary  
33 education degree opportunities and training to incarcerated adults  
34 through expanded partnerships between the community and technical  
35 colleges and the department of corrections;

36 (d) A plan for implementing the expansion of postsecondary  
37 education degree opportunities, specifying the estimated period of  
38 time necessary for implementation, within the estimated costs

1 associated with the fiscal impacts reviewed in (c) of this  
2 subsection.

3 (2) The department may conduct a proof of concept pilot at one  
4 correctional institution for a new secure internet connection for  
5 offender postsecondary education. Results of the proof of concept  
6 pilot must be used to inform the report required in subsection (1) of  
7 this section.

8 (3) This section expires December 31, 2019."

9 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes the prohibition on the Department of Corrections (DOC) from implementing a secure internet connection and instead allows DOC to conduct a proof of concept pilot at one correctional institution for a secure internet connection for offender postsecondary education that must inform the report to the Legislature.

--- END ---