
SENATE BILL 5692

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Gildon, Honeyford, Randall, Rivers, and Wagoner

Prefiled 01/06/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to programming at the department of corrections;
2 adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW; creating a new section;
3 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 the good time
6 system is too static, not reactive enough, and does not create an
7 ecosystem that drives behavioral change through incentives. The
8 legislature finds that a study to better understand what we have and
9 what works will inform how the legislature can change good time to
10 prioritize the programs that work and most effectively change
11 behavior with carrots and sticks for those who committed a crime, but
12 are clearly making efforts to improve their lives and rehabilitate
13 themselves. The legislature finds that a formula where completion of
14 a program triggers automatic credit will create a clear system of
15 incentives for those incarcerated to engage in programming and
16 education that is directly tied with release from confinement.

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

19 (1)(a) The Washington state institute for public policy shall
20 prepare an evaluation of the top five programs with the highest

1 participation rates at the department that are classified by the
2 institute as evidence-based, in addition to the reentry community
3 services program in RCW 72.09.370. Program evaluations required under
4 this section may not include the correctional postsecondary education
5 program in RCW 72.09.460 and 72.09.465.

6 (b) For each of the programs identified, the evaluation must
7 analyze the program's effectiveness and impact on recidivism.

8 (c) The institute shall submit, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
9 a report on the five program evaluations, in addition to the
10 evaluation on the reentry community services program, in accordance
11 with this section to the legislature and the Washington state
12 criminal sentencing task force by December 1, 2023.

13 (2)(a) The Washington state criminal sentencing task force shall
14 develop and recommend a formula for awarding earned early release
15 time in accordance with RCW 9.94A.729 to individuals who complete
16 programming at the department that is recognized by the program
17 evaluations under subsection (1) of this section as having a
18 positive, demonstrable impact on recidivism. The task force shall
19 identify which offenses, if any, would be ineligible for the formula
20 developed under this subsection.

21 (b) The Washington state criminal sentencing task force shall
22 report its findings and formula recommendations, in compliance with
23 RCW 43.01.036, to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
24 legislature by September 1, 2024.

25 (3) This section expires June 30, 2025.

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