**2210 AMS HS S5109.3 - NOT FOR FLOOR USE**

**HB 2210** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature is committed to helping incarcerated persons successfully rejoin society after their release. In Washington, correctional industries is an important stepping stone for incarcerated persons to transition from a life behind bars to a free, law-abiding, and productive life in the community. These vocational and occupational programs are proven to promote rehabilitation and redemption, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety. The legislature intends to study the development of strategies for expanding these programs offered to incarcerated persons. To that end, correctional industries is hereby directed to evaluate the wild horse training and holding program in Arizona, which is conducted in partnership with Arizona correctional industries and the federal bureau of land management, for the purpose of implementing a similar program in Washington. Participants in the Arizona program have successfully and skillfully cared for and trained wild horses, which were then adopted or purchased by the public through the bureau of land management wild horse and burro program. Program participants use gentling techniques based in natural horsemanship and gain equestrian skills they can use when seeking employment or building businesses after being released. In the process, participants also build self-confidence and learn the value of patience, warmth, and respect for all living things. Early research indicates that participants in the Arizona program have significantly lower recidivism rates than the rest of the prison population, less than 15 percent as compared to 40 percent. The legislature recognizes the Arizona program as a potential model for developing a similar program at a state corrections center.

Further, establishing a similar training and holding program would create an opportunity to address the statewide shortage of farriers resulting from the closure of the farrier program at Walla Walla Community College. A partnership between Walla Walla Community College and correctional industries would assist with meeting the demand for farrier services while also creating even more employment opportunities for persons leaving correctional institutions.

Therefore, the legislature hereby directs correctional industries to conduct a feasibility study and develop an implementation plan for the purpose of establishing a wild horse training, holding, and farrier program at a state corrections center.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) The department of corrections, through correctional industries, shall conduct a feasibility study and develop a plan for implementing a wild horse training, holding, and farrier program at a state corrections center. The program must be designed in partnership with the federal bureau of land management wild horse and burro program, for the purpose of assisting incarcerated persons with developing occupational, vocational, and life skills.

(2) In conducting the study and developing an implementation plan, the department shall create an advisory committee consisting of representatives of the bureau of land management wild horse and burro program, the state department of natural resources, the state department of agriculture, federally recognized tribes, Walla Walla Community College, Washington State University, other appropriate state and federal agencies, local governments, experts in the field of wild horse management and training, horse rescue and rehabilitation, and other relevant entities as determined by the department. The department must:

(a) Ensure the plan will define natural horsemanship and use it as a basis for gentling and training;

(b) Evaluate and consult with similar programs in other states, including reviewing existing agreements with the bureau of land management and participating tribes, and studying operations and facilities used by those programs;

(c) Develop design and construction options for holding and training program facilities, which must include a consideration of: (i) The safety and welfare of incarcerated persons and staff; (ii) maintaining appropriate levels of security for a correctional institution; (iii) the welfare of the horses and the facilities necessary to support the proposed number of horses; and (iv) sourcing cost-effective materials, including repurposing materials from existing facilities;

(d) Determine the costs of establishing and maintaining operations, facilities, and staff for a holding program to feed, care for, and restore bureau of land management horses and burros as well as for a training program, which must consider: Utilizing correctional industries for constructing, maintaining, and operating facilities; financial support from the bureau of land management for holding the horses; and leveraging other available federal funding;

(e) Evaluate the availability of land necessary to support the program, which must include an evaluation of: (i) Current state property and adjacent private or public property available for lease or acquisition to be used for hay production, with the goal of promoting agricultural and farming skills through the holding and training program; (ii) current state property and adjacent private or public property available for lease or acquisition to be used for training facilities and holding facilities; and (iii) the water necessary and available for operations, including well water and surface water sourced from the region;

(f) Evaluate the steps necessary to develop a partnership with Walla Walla Community College for the purpose of establishing a course for qualifying participants to obtain a farrier certificate to be completed in conjunction with the wild horse training program. The course may also include a business basics class or component to assist participants with managing their farrier careers following their release. The evaluation shall assess the demand for farrier services and the outlook for participants in the program to find employment as farriers. The evaluation shall also assess appropriate qualifications for participants including, but not limited to, risk to public safety and disqualifying convictions;

(g) Consult with Washington State University to determine whether the college of veterinary medicine may have students practice care at the training and holding facilities;

(h) Develop a procedure to exclude incarcerated individuals who have been convicted of animal cruelty offenses from participating in the program;

(i) Develop protocols to ensure the welfare of horses from the time the horses enter the program and following their exit from the program, and to ensure horses in the program are not sold, traded, bartered, or given away for the purposes of slaughter;

(j) Study and evaluate the potential for the use of wild horses present on federal lands and within the external boundaries of federally recognized tribes within the state of Washington including, but not limited to, the Yakama Reservation. The study must include consultation with interested federally recognized tribes; and

(k) Assess any changes to state statutes or department policies necessary to implement the program.

(3) The department shall prepare a draft report that shall be made available for review and comment by the advisory committee established under this section. The department shall also make the draft report available for a 30-day public review and comment period and publish a summary of any public comments received. The department shall complete the study and submit a final report and implementation plan to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature no later than June 1, 2025."

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By Committee on Human Services

On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "center;" strike the remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

EFFECT: Alters the intent to study the development of strategies for expanding vocational and occupational programs for incarcerated persons. Requires DOC to form an advisory committee with the list of representatives from other government agencies and stakeholders, and adds representatives from horse rescue and rehabilitation and federally recognized tribes to the advisory committee. Adds review of existing agreements with participating tribes in the evaluation and consultation with similar programs in other states. Requires the plan to define natural horsemanship and use it as a basis for gentling and training. Requires DOC to assess the demand for farrier services and the outlook for participants in the program to find employment as farriers, and assess appropriate qualifications for participants including, but not limited to, risk to public safety and disqualifying convictions. Requires DOC to develop a procedure for excluding incarcerated individuals who have been convicted of animal cruelty offenses from participating in the program. Directs DOC to develop protocols to ensure the welfare of horses from entry to exit from the program so that horses are not sold, traded, bartered, or given away for purposes of slaughter. Requires DOC to study and evaluate the potential for the use of wild horses present on federal lands and within the external boundaries of federally recognized tribes within the state including, but not limited to, the Yakama Reservation. Provides that DOC must make a draft report available for review and comment by the advisory committee and make the draft report available for a 30-day public review and comment period and publish a summary of public comments received. Extends the report date from November 1, 2024, to June 1, 2025.