
HOUSE BILL 2084

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Fosse, Low, Berry, Leavitt, Simmons, Reed, Ormsby, Street, Bronoske, Ryu, Chapman, Wylie, Doglio, Cortes, Paul, Reeves, and Davis

Prefiled 01/02/24. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing an oversight committee to improve
2 construction-related training and pathways to state registered
3 apprenticeships in state correctional facilities; adding a new
4 section to chapter 43.06C RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that supporting and
7 preparing incarcerated persons to successfully reenter the community
8 is critical to recognizing the dignity of all incarcerated persons,
9 while also reducing recidivism and expanding the state's trained and
10 skilled workforce. To that end, the legislature intends to improve
11 the quality and availability of construction-related training
12 programs in state correctional facilities in order to strengthen
13 pathways for incarcerated persons to advance from those programs to
14 state registered apprenticeship programs upon reentering the
15 community. These improvements will expand access to living wage jobs
16 for formerly incarcerated persons, increase the construction
17 workforce, and support federal and state investments in
18 transportation infrastructure and clean energy. Therefore, the
19 legislature hereby directs the office of the corrections ombuds to
20 convene an oversight committee for the purpose of facilitating
21 critical changes to state correctional programming. The oversight

1 committee will evaluate, strengthen, and expand construction-related
2 training programs, with a focus on state recognized apprenticeship
3 preparation programs, and transition planning with the goal of
4 improving pathways to the enrollment of formerly incarcerated persons
5 in state registered apprenticeship programs.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.06C
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
9 specific purpose, the ombuds shall convene an oversight committee for
10 the purposes of expanding access to construction-related training
11 programs in state correctional facilities, with a focus on state
12 recognized apprenticeship preparation programs, and strengthening
13 pathways for incarcerated persons to advance from those programs to
14 state registered apprenticeship programs upon reentering the
15 community. The ombuds may enter into contracts for services as may be
16 necessary to comply with the requirements of this section.

17 (2) (a) The ombuds shall appoint members of the oversight
18 committee, including representatives of the following:

19 (i) The department, including staff involved with construction-
20 related training programs and reentry planning, and community
21 corrections officers;

22 (ii) Correctional industries;

23 (iii) The apprenticeship division of the department of labor and
24 industries;

25 (iv) The state board for community and technical colleges,
26 including representatives from the basic education division and
27 student support programs;

28 (v) The Washington state building and construction trades
29 council;

30 (vi) Registered apprenticeship programs in the construction
31 trades, and providers of apprenticeship preparation programs;

32 (vii) College corrections navigators and apprenticeship
33 navigators;

34 (viii) The juvenile rehabilitation division and community
35 services office of the department of children, youth, and families;

36 (ix) The ombuds; and

37 (x) Other agencies, boards, or entities that the ombuds has
38 identified as having a significant interest in the work of the
39 oversight committee.

1 (b) The ombuds shall also appoint two persons with lived
2 experience to serve as members of the oversight committee.

3 (c) Except as provided under RCW 43.03.220, the members of the
4 oversight committee must serve without compensation, but are entitled
5 to be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and
6 43.03.060.

7 (3) The oversight committee shall:

8 (a) Develop, maintain, and publish an inventory of all
9 construction-related training programs in correctional facilities
10 including, but not limited to, the following information for each
11 program:

12 (i) Location, capacity, criteria for admission, and current
13 enrollment;

14 (ii) State recognized apprenticeship preparation status or
15 viability;

16 (iii) Any related partnership with a state registered
17 apprenticeship program;

18 (iv) The type of trade and if it is multicraft or single craft
19 curriculum; and

20 (v) The entity funding the instruction, consumables, equipment,
21 and facilities;

22 (b) Collect, maintain, and publish information and data on
23 construction-related training programs for the previous four calendar
24 years, including the following for each program:

25 (i) Numbers served, number of participants completing the
26 program, and relevant demographics of participants;

27 (ii) Length of time between program completion and release from
28 incarceration; and

29 (iii) Postrelease outcomes, including employment status,
30 apprenticeship status, and recidivism rate, when such outcome data is
31 available;

32 (c) Assess the following:

33 (i) The viability or progress of transitioning current
34 construction-related training programs to meet state recognized
35 apprenticeship preparation requirements;

36 (ii) The viability or progress of transitioning the curriculum
37 for construction-related apprenticeship preparation programs to cover
38 multiple construction crafts;

1 (iii) Any unmet support needed by construction-related training
2 programs for instruction, including consumables and equipment, among
3 other needs;

4 (iv) The viability or progress of implementing new state
5 recognized apprenticeship preparation programs in correctional
6 facilities; and

7 (v) Practices for conducting transitional planning and support
8 for participants who complete construction-related training programs,
9 including: Preenrollment into support services prior to release;
10 inclusion of state registered apprenticeship program staff in the
11 incarcerated persons' community reentry planning; and access to
12 behavioral health services prior to transition; and

13 (d) Identify areas of concern and also make recommendations for
14 appropriate and necessary changes to policies and practices to the
15 department, state board for community and technical colleges,
16 department of labor and industries, state registered apprenticeship
17 programs, and other appropriate entities.

18 (4) The oversight committee shall submit a report to the
19 legislature by October 1, 2025, with initial findings and
20 recommendations for expanding access to construction-related state
21 recognized apprenticeship preparation programs in state correctional
22 facilities, and strengthening pathways for incarcerated persons to
23 advance from those programs to state registered apprenticeship
24 programs upon reentering the community. By October 1, 2026, and by
25 October 1st of each even-numbered year thereafter, the oversight
26 committee shall submit a report to the legislature summarizing its
27 work from the last two-year period and providing any relevant
28 findings and recommendations. The ombuds shall publish on its website
29 on an ongoing basis information designed to improve access to and
30 outcomes of programs, based on input and guidance provided by the
31 oversight committee.

32 (5) (a) Beginning on the effective date of this section, the
33 department shall collect data on the employment outcomes of
34 incarcerated persons reentering the community after having
35 participated in a construction-related training program in a
36 constructional facility, including whether those persons participated
37 in and completed any state registered apprenticeship programs. The
38 department, in consultation with the oversight committee and relevant
39 state agencies, shall make efforts to track and collect data on
40 employment outcomes for at least three years following a person's

1 release from a state correctional facility. Upon request, the
2 department shall report any data collected under this subsection to
3 the oversight committee and the ombuds.

4 (b) By December 1, 2026, and by December 1st of each even-
5 numbered year thereafter, the department of corrections shall submit
6 a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature including
7 the following information from the last two-year period: (i) the
8 status of implementing any changes recommended by the oversight
9 committee; (ii) the reasoning for not implementing any changes
10 recommended by the oversight committee; and (iii) a summary of
11 funding expended on construction-related training programs identified
12 by the oversight committee, and a summary of any additional funding
13 needed to support those programs.

14 (6) For the purpose of supporting the work of the oversight
15 committee, the ombuds may consider relevant aspects of its work and
16 communications, including any personally identifiable information of
17 incarcerated persons, to constitute an investigation, subject to the
18 confidentiality protections under RCW 43.06C.060. Oversight committee
19 members shall maintain the confidentiality of any such records and
20 information so identified by the ombuds. This subsection does not
21 prohibit the oversight committee from publishing aggregate data or
22 other information collected under subsection (3) of this section,
23 provided that such data or information does not contain personally
24 identifiable information.

--- END ---