
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2847

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Leonard, Hargrove, Prentice, Winsley, H. Myers, Beck, Riley, Anderson, Brekke, Wineberry and Basich)

Read first time 02/07/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to the placement of mentally disordered offenders;
2 and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that mentally ill
5 offenders represent a significant and growing portion of our current
6 inmate population in prisons and jails. Funding constraints in mental
7 health treatment coupled with administrative and legal impediments to
8 initiating referrals to the mental health system have resulted in jails
9 and prisons being used as the treatment centers of last resort. The
10 use of scarce prison and jail beds as treatment options for the
11 mentally ill offender represents an expensive and sometimes
12 inappropriate use of state resources. The legislature further finds
13 that sentencing alternatives for seriously mentally ill offenders that

1 do not represent a threat to public safety need to be appropriately
2 considered.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sentencing guidelines commission, in
4 cooperation with the division of mental health of the department of
5 social and health services, the department of corrections, the
6 Washington institute of public policy, and appropriate advocacy groups,
7 shall identify and suggest appropriate sentencing options for offenders
8 with mental disorders as defined in RCW 71.05.020. In its
9 recommendations, the sentencing guidelines commission shall consider
10 the types of offenders who may qualify for suggested alternatives,
11 types and sources of the mental disorder diagnoses, methods for
12 assurance of public safety, and other necessary information.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sentencing guidelines commission
14 shall submit a written report to the appropriate committees of the
15 house of representatives and the senate, respectively, on or before
16 December 12, 1992.