
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5830

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Stratton, Erwin, Rasmussen, Williams, Talmadge, Wojahn, Vognild, Pelz, Snyder and Owen).

Read first time March 11, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to youth gang violence reduction; adding a new
2 chapter to Title 43 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that:

5 (1) The number of youth who are members and associates of gangs and
6 commit gang violence has significantly increased throughout the entire
7 greater Puget Sound, Spokane, and other areas of the state;

8 (2) Youth gang violence has caused a tremendous strain on the
9 progress of the communities impacted. The loss of life, property, and
10 positive opportunity for growth caused by youth gang violence has
11 reached intolerable levels. Increased youth gang activity has
12 seriously strained the budgets of many local jurisdictions, as well as
13 threatened the ability of the educational system to educate our youth;

14 (3) Among youth gang members the high school drop-out rate is
15 significantly higher than among nongang members. Since the economic

1 future of our state depends on a highly educated and skilled work
2 force, this high school drop-out rate threatens the economic welfare of
3 our future work force, as well as the future economic growth of our
4 state;

5 (4) The unemployment rate among youth gang members is higher than
6 that among the general youth population. The unusual unemployment
7 rate, lack of education and skills, and the increased criminal activity
8 could significantly impact our future prison population;

9 (5) Most youth gangs are subcultural. This implies that gangs
10 provide the nurturing, discipline, and guidance to gang youth and
11 potential gang youth that is generally provided by communities and
12 other social systems. The subcultural designation means that youth
13 gang participation and violence can be effectively reduced in
14 Washington communities and schools through the involvement of
15 community, educational, criminal justice, and employment systems
16 working in a unified manner with parents and individuals who have a
17 firsthand knowledge of youth gangs and at-risk youth; and

18 (6) A strong unified effort among parents and community,
19 educational, criminal justice, and employment systems would facilitate:
20 (a) The learning process; (b) the control and reduction of gang
21 violence; (c) the prevention of youth joining negative gangs; and (d)
22 the intervention into youth gangs.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** It is the intent of the legislature to
24 cause the development of positive prevention and intervention pilot
25 programs for elementary and secondary age youth through cooperation
26 between individual schools, local organizations, and government. It is
27 also the intent of the legislature that if the prevention and
28 intervention pilot programs are determined to be effective in reducing
29 problems associated with youth gang violence, that other counties in

1 the state be eligible to receive special state funding to establish
2 similar positive prevention and intervention programs.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Unless the context otherwise requires,
4 the following definitions shall apply throughout sections 1 through 12
5 of this act:

6 (1) "School" means any public school within a school district any
7 portion of which is in a county with a population of over three hundred
8 fifty thousand.

9 (2) "Community organization" means any organization recognized by
10 a city or county as such, as well as private, nonprofit organizations
11 registered with the secretary of state.

12 (3) "Gang risk prevention and intervention pilot program" means a
13 community-based positive prevention and intervention program for gang
14 members, potential gang members, at-risk youth, and elementary through
15 high school-aged youth directed at all of the following:

16 (a) Reducing the probability of youth involvement in gang
17 activities and consequent violence.

18 (b) Establishing ties, at an early age, between youth and community
19 organizations.

20 (c) Committing local business and community resources to positive
21 programming for youth.

22 (d) Committing state resources to assist in creating the gang risk
23 prevention and intervention pilot programs.

24 (4) "Cultural awareness retreat" means a program that temporarily
25 relocates at-risk youth or gang members from their usual social
26 environment to a different social environment, with the specific
27 purpose of having them performing activities which will enhance or
28 increase their positive behavior and potential life successes.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department of community
2 development may contract with school districts for the development,
3 administration, and implementation in the county of community-based
4 gang risk prevention and intervention pilot programs.

5 (2) Proposals by the school district for gang risk prevention and
6 intervention pilot program grant funding shall begin with school years
7 no sooner than the 1992-93 session, and last for a duration of two
8 years.

9 (3) The school district proposal shall include:

10 (a) A description of the program goals, activities, and curriculum.
11 The description of the program goals shall include a list of measurable
12 objectives for the purpose of evaluation by the school district. To
13 the extent possible, proposals shall contain empirical data on current
14 problems, such as drop-out rates and occurrences of violence on and off
15 campus by school-age individuals.

16 (b) A description of the individual school or schools and the
17 geographic area to be affected by the program.

18 (c) A demonstration of broad-based support for the program from
19 business and community organizations.

20 (d) A clear description of the experience, expertise, and other
21 qualifications of the community organizations to conduct an effective
22 prevention and intervention program in cooperation with a school or a
23 group of schools.

24 (e) A proposed budget for expenditure of the grant.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) A school district in a county with
26 a population of over three hundred fifty thousand may request proposals
27 for establishing gang risk prevention and intervention pilot programs
28 from either public entities that apply jointly with individual schools
29 or community organizations. The proposals shall be reviewed and

1 recommendations for awarding grants shall be made by a committee made
2 up of: (a) A representative from the school district taking the
3 proposal, appointed by the school district's board of directors; (b) a
4 representative appointed by the director of the department of community
5 development or designate; and (c) a representative from the local
6 juvenile court administration.

7 (2) A school district, upon its election to enter into a contract
8 pursuant to section 4 of this act, shall, no later than March 1, 1992,
9 distribute a standard request for proposals.

10 (3) Proposals made to the school district must comply with the
11 conditions of the grant.

12 (4) The school district shall additionally monitor and evaluate the
13 gang risk prevention and intervention pilot programs pursuant to the
14 following criteria:

15 (a) Success in obtaining stated goals.

16 (b) Reduction in drop-out rates.

17 (c) Reduction in violence among students, on and off campus.

18 (d) Development of techniques for early identification of at-risk
19 youth.

20 (5) The school district shall report to the department of community
21 development the results of the program.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Gang risk prevention and intervention
23 pilot programs shall include, but are not limited to:

24 (1) Counseling for targeted at-risk students, parents, and
25 families, individually and collectively.

26 (2) Exposure to positive sports and cultural activities, promoting
27 affiliations between youth and the local community.

1 (3) Job training, which may include apprentice programs in
2 coordination with local businesses, job skills development at the
3 school, or information about vocational opportunities in the community.

4 (4) Positive interaction with local law enforcement personnel.

5 (5) The use of local organizations to provide job search training
6 skills.

7 (6) Cultural awareness retreats.

8 (7) The use of specified state resources, as requested.

9 (8) Full service schools under section 9 of this act.

10 (9) Community service such as volunteerism and citizenship.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) Upon request from the local
12 community organization receiving an award under section 5 of this act
13 or the granting local school district, or both, the employment security
14 department shall provide a job counselor or counselors to assist at
15 cultural awareness retreats. The counselor shall provide assistance
16 with the following:

17 (a) Testing for job occupation preferences.

18 (b) Information on the skills needed for different occupations.

19 (c) Coordinating the personal appearance of small business owners
20 or corporate managers to explain the type of skills and characteristics
21 businesses currently need in prospective employees, as well as those of
22 prospective future employees.

23 (d) Establishing a business mentor program between the small
24 business owners or corporate managers and the youth who are willing to
25 participate.

26 (e) Establishing a specific program that provides help with
27 employment opportunities for youth who attend cultural awareness
28 retreats.

29 The department may provide other services than those specified.

1 (2) Upon request from the local community organization awarded the
2 grant, the local school district, or both, the department may provide
3 those services specified in subsection (1) of this section for the
4 youth who are receiving services from the local community organization.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Upon request from the local community
6 organization receiving an award under section 5 of this act or the
7 granting local school district, or both, the department of labor and
8 industries shall:

9 (1) Provide information and assistance with regards to the skills
10 and educational backgrounds needed to apply for apprenticeship
11 programs.

12 (2) Provide direction and assistance with applications for
13 apprenticeship programs.

14 (3) Explore and examine the feasibility of establishing
15 preapprenticeship programs for those youth who cannot qualify for
16 apprenticeships because of age or educational deficiencies, and are
17 participating or have participated in the retreat.

18 (4) Provide assistance for and coordination of the personal
19 appearance of representatives of the joint apprenticeship committee
20 with the specific purpose of discussing the skills needed to perform
21 different occupations.

22 (5) Provide assistance for and coordination of the establishment of
23 a joint apprenticeship mentor program with those youth who are
24 participating or have participated in the retreat program.

25 The department may provide other services.

26 Upon request from the local community organization receiving the
27 award under section 5 of this act or the local school district, or
28 both, the department shall provide the services in this section either

1 at the grant-receiving school or at the cultural awareness retreat, or
2 both.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) The purpose of a full service school
4 shall be to increase the interaction between youth and the community at
5 large. A full service school shall provide a wide range of
6 opportunities for all citizens, including goals under RCW 28A.620.010
7 (1), (2), (3), and (6), and subsection (2) of this section.

8 (2) The local school district and the local community organization
9 that received a grant under section 5 of this act shall work with other
10 community organizations, the superintendent of public instruction, and
11 school personnel in the selected school to determine the services
12 needed by the community that shall be offered at the full service
13 school.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) Upon request, the division of
15 juvenile rehabilitation shall through cooperation with private business
16 or through interagency agreement with the state parks and recreation
17 commission or department of natural resources, or both, provide
18 facilities for cultural awareness retreats. The requests for
19 facilities must be made by one of the following: (a) The community
20 organization receiving the grant, or (b) the local school district that
21 assisted in awarding the grant. The division may provide other
22 services as requested.

23 (2) The services may be, but are not limited to, persons
24 knowledgeable of juvenile gang behavior.

25 (3) Upon receiving a request for cultural awareness retreat
26 facilities, the division shall notify the departments of employment
27 security and labor and industries of the organization requesting the
28 retreat, and the time, place, and date of the retreat.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Cultural awareness retreats shall
2 include but are not limited to the following programs:

3 (1) To develop positive attitudes and self-esteem.

4 (2) To develop youth decision-making ability.

5 (3) To assist with career development and educational development.

6 (4) To help develop respect for the community, and ethnic origin.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** If specific funding for the purposes of
8 this act, referencing this act by bill number, is not provided by June
9 30, 1991, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act shall be null and
10 void.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Sections 2 through 11 of this act shall
12 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.