

1 **HCR 4433 - H AMD 1263 WITHDRAWN 3-3-94**

2 By Representative Padden

3 On page 1, line 1, after "WHEREAS," strike the remainder of
4 the resolution and insert the following:

5 "Serious questions have been raised concerning the
6 appropriateness of the state granting good-time credits and early
7 release to persons whose victims receive no similar reduction in
8 the length of time that they must suffer the consequences of an
9 inmate's criminal acts; and

10 WHEREAS, Eliminating the state's granting of good-time credits
11 and early release is consistent with the duty of the state to
12 protect its citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, The cost of incarceration is higher in Washington
14 state than the national average which suggests that Washington can
15 and should find ways to reduce its average cost of incarceration,
16 including, but not limited to the privatization of our correctional
17 institutions; and

18 WHEREAS, The costs to victims imposed by felons out on early
19 release far exceed any costs that would be imposed by having felons
20 serve their full sentence; and

21 WHEREAS, It is time that government began listening to what
22 the law-abiding citizens of the state are demanding rather than
23 what convicted felons would like;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of
25 Representatives of the state of Washington, the Senate concurring,
26 That a Legislative Task Force on Truth in Sentencing be established
27 to: (1) Review the current statutes, regulations, and
28 administrative policies under which the Department of Corrections
29 grants good-time credits and early release and propose their
30 demise; (2) study the effect that early release programs have had
31 on victims of felons who are out on early release; (3) recommend

1 alternatives to the Department of Corrections' use of good-time
2 credits, early release, and other incentives for controlling inmate
3 behavior such as allowing for an increase in sentences up to 50%
4 over the given sentence for bad behavior; and (4) estimate the
5 fiscal impact of any recommended modifications or alternatives,
6 including societal cost savings from crimes that are not committed
7 because felons are in prison; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of
9 the following ten voting members:

10 (1) Five members from the Senate Committee on Law and Justice,
11 one of whom shall be the committee chair, two of whom shall be
12 additional members from the majority party, and two of whom shall
13 be members from the minority party, to be appointed by each of the
14 two largest caucuses in the Senate respectively; and

15 (2) Five members from the House of Representatives Committee
16 on Corrections, one of whom shall be the committee chair, two of
17 whom shall be additional members from the majority party, and two
18 of whom shall be members from the minority party, to be appointed
19 by each of the two largest caucuses in the House of Representatives
20 respectively; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a representative from the
22 Department of Corrections shall act as a liaison and nonvoting
23 member of the task force; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a representative from a crime
25 victims group shall act as a liaison and nonvoting member of the
26 task force; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall be cochaired
28 by the chair of the House of Representatives Committee on
29 Corrections and the chair of the Senate Committee on Law and
30 Justice, or their designees; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consult with
32 members of the public and private sectors or ask such persons to
33 form an advisory committee; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall use
2 legislative staff and facilities. All expenses of the task force,
3 including travel, shall be paid jointly by the Senate and the House
4 of Representatives; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its
6 findings and recommendations to eliminate the use of good-time
7 credits and early release to the legislature by December 31, 1994;
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall expire
10 December 31, 1994."

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