
HOUSE BILL 2797

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Cole, Moak, Wineberry, Leonard, Holm, Conway, Karahalios and Cothern

Read first time 01/24/94. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to education of juvenile offenders; and creating
2 new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that institutionalized
5 juvenile offenders have special educational needs. Fulfillment of
6 these needs is essential to an effective program of juvenile offender
7 rehabilitation.

8 Serious fragmentation in the administration and organizational
9 structure has hampered correctional education. Complex funding
10 formulae prevent planning for allocation of scarce resources. Resource
11 needs are acute in the area of correctional education, due to the
12 students' educational deficits and remedial needs. Lack of access to
13 levy revenues aggravates the funding shortfalls.

14 The legislature finds that significant revisions to the current
15 correctional education system will help resolve these problems.
16 Assigning responsibility for correctional education to a single entity
17 will provide the special educational services necessary to
18 rehabilitate juvenile offenders.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature plans significant revisions
2 to chapter 28A.190 RCW, which deals with residential education. The
3 legislature intends to consolidate within a single entity the
4 responsibility for providing educational services to juvenile offenders
5 who are in the custody of the department of social and health services.
6 The legislature intends to implement this change beginning with the
7 1995-96 school year. To this end, a juvenile offender education task
8 force is created.

9 (1) The membership of the task force shall consist of the
10 following:

11 (a) The superintendent of public instruction, or the
12 superintendent's designee;

13 (b) The superintendents of state juvenile rehabilitation
14 institutions or facilities;

15 (c) A legislator, to be appointed by the chair of the house of
16 representatives committee on corrections;

17 (d) The secretary of the department of social and health services,
18 or the secretary's designee; and

19 (e) Members of two school boards of districts in which state
20 juvenile offender residential facilities are located.

21 (2) The task force shall:

22 (a) Review the educational needs of juvenile offenders within state
23 facilities, including:

24 (i) Determine the need for special or remedial education;

25 (ii) Determine the special teaching qualifications necessary to
26 fulfill these educational needs;

27 (iii) Determine the need for vocational education; and

28 (iv) Determine the length of the school year;

29 (b) Review the current system of funding residential education for
30 juvenile offenders;

31 (c) Determine a teacher-student funding ratio to ensure adequate
32 funding and to compensate for lack of levy revenue; and

33 (d) Review the current system of administering the residential
34 education within state facilities for juvenile offenders.

35 (3) After conducting the reviews listed in subsection (2) of this
36 section, the task force shall develop a report containing
37 recommendations to the legislature. This report shall be delivered to
38 the legislature by October 1, 1994, and shall contain:

1 (a) A recommendation on consolidation within a single entity of the
2 responsibility for providing educational services to juvenile offenders
3 in state custody. This recommendation shall state whether an existing
4 governmental agency should perform this function or a new agency should
5 be created;

6 (b) Recommendations on organization and administration within the
7 single entity;

8 (c) Recommendations on funding of juvenile offender education,
9 including compensation for lack of levy revenue;

10 (d) Recommendations on curricula, including special education and
11 vocational education; and

12 (e) Recommendations on special teacher qualifications, teacher-
13 student ratio, and security issues.

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