
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6853

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Long and Hargrove)

Read first time 02/24/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to a pilot program for supervision of juvenile
2 offenders with mental disorders and chemical abuse disorders; adding
3 new sections to chapter 13.40 RCW; creating a new section; providing an
4 effective date; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that juvenile
8 offenders who have co-occurring mental and chemical abuse disorders
9 have a greater risk of committing additional offenses than those who do
10 not have co-occurring disorders. The legislature finds that juveniles
11 who receive more extensive postrelease discharge planning and community
12 mental health services are less likely to commit additional offenses.
13 The legislature intends that juveniles participating in the study
14 created by this act receive research-based, integrated, and highly
15 individualized mental health and chemical abuse treatment that
16 emphasizes family and community involvement, low caseloads, home or
17 residence-based services, is time-determinate to the extent
18 appropriate, focuses on the juvenile's peer and social structures,

1 promotes reduction of factors associated with reoffending, and
2 emphasizes prosocial contacts and behaviors.

3 (2) The legislature finds that juvenile offenders with co-occurring
4 disorders are likely to lack necessary skills or emotional stability to
5 appropriately deal with the consequences of their disorders or to even
6 understand how or where to seek assistance. The legislature also finds
7 that juvenile offenders with co-occurring disorders are more likely
8 than not to lack the education necessary to obtain full or meaningful
9 employment opportunities.

10 (3) It is the intent of the legislature to create a pilot program
11 to provide for postrelease planning for, and treatment of, juvenile
12 offenders with co-occurring disorders in order to determine the most
13 effective treatment for juveniles in this situation. The pilot program
14 created by this act shall include a rigorous and objective evaluation
15 component.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 13.40 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) The secretary shall select and contract with a private or
19 nonprofit provider to provide a program of specialized access and
20 integrated services to juvenile offenders who are identified as having
21 co-occurring disorders and selected for participation in the pilot
22 program created by this act prior to release from total confinement
23 within the juvenile rehabilitation administration. The program shall
24 enroll no more juvenile offenders than the number that can be
25 accommodated within the appropriated funding level and shall seek to
26 fill any vacancies that occur.

27 (2) Juvenile offenders identified by the secretary and selected by
28 the program as having co-occurring disorders and a high risk of
29 reoffending are eligible for consideration for enrollment in the
30 program. Criteria for admission into the program shall include a
31 determination by the secretary that the offender:

32 (a) Has a mental disorder as defined in chapter 71.05 RCW, or is a
33 severely emotionally disturbed child or a seriously disturbed person as
34 defined in chapter 71.24 RCW and needs continued mental health
35 treatment;

36 (b) Has a chemical abuse disorder, as determined by the secretary;

37 (c) Is less likely to reoffend if he or she receives integrated,
38 highly individualized treatment;

1 (d) Is unable or unlikely to obtain appropriate treatment from
2 other sources; and

3 (e) Will remain under the supervision of the secretary for at least
4 four months following release from total confinement.

5 (3) The program enrollment shall, to the extent possible, reflect
6 the demographics of juvenile offenders having co-occurring disorders
7 and who are in total confinement under the jurisdiction of the
8 secretary.

9 (4) The provider shall provide integrated and highly individualized
10 mental health and chemical abuse treatment to persons enrolled in the
11 program. The services shall be aimed at:

12 (a) Lowering the risk of reoffending;

13 (b) Improving the education level and vocational opportunities;

14 (c) Connecting the offenders with appropriate community services;

15 (d) Achieving abstinence from unlawful use of controlled substances
16 and alcohol;

17 (e) Improving the mental health status and stability of the
18 juvenile; and

19 (f) Increasing prosocial behavior.

20 (5) The services offered in the program shall:

21 (a) Include intensive, community-based case management and
22 treatment with a client-to-staff ratio not to exceed seven offenders to
23 each case manager;

24 (b) Be available at any time;

25 (c) Be based on a collaboration with the appropriate department
26 employees during the preparation of a release plan for the offender,
27 prior to discharge, and in ongoing supervision of the offender by the
28 secretary;

29 (d) Include all appropriate medications, including the full range
30 of psychotropic medications, as well as monitoring and counseling to
31 support offender understanding, acceptance, and compliance with
32 medication regimens;

33 (e) Include a systematic effort to engage offenders and their
34 families, where possible, to continuously involve themselves in current
35 and long-term treatment and appropriate rehabilitative activities;

36 (f) Include classes appropriate to the clinical and living needs of
37 the offender and to his or her level of understanding;

1 (g) Provide assistance in applying for all appropriate federal,
2 state, and private support for which the offender or his or her family
3 is eligible;

4 (h) Include access to daily activities such as school, drop-in
5 centers, prevocational and vocational training and jobs, and volunteer
6 activities.

7 (6) The program provided for in this section must begin providing
8 services to selected juveniles by September 1, 2000.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 13.40 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 The Washington state institute for public policy shall evaluate the
12 implementation and outcomes of the pilot program created under this
13 act. The institute shall submit an initial report to the legislature
14 and governor not later than December 1, 2000, and annually thereafter.
15 The report shall include the following:

16 (1) An assessment of the implementation of the pilot program across
17 the state;

18 (2) A statistical analysis of the reoffense and
19 reinstitutionalization rate by participants in the program;

20 (3) A qualitative description of the services provided in the
21 program;

22 (4) Recommendations for any modification of the services and
23 funding levels to increase the effectiveness of the program;

24 (5) Whether the participants improve their education attendance and
25 skills;

26 (6) Improvements in employability;

27 (7) Verifiable reductions in and abstinence from unlawful use of
28 controlled substances and alcohol;

29 (8) Compliance with medication regimens;

30 (9) Increase in prosocial contacts and behaviors, including peer
31 interactions and free-time activities and stability of appropriate
32 living situations; and

33 (10) Reductions in the incidents of inpatient psychiatric placements
34 and the use of acute care services.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
36 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the

1 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
2 persons or circumstances is not affected.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
6 April 1, 2000.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act expire July
8 1, 2004.

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