
SENATE BILL 6853

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Long and Hargrove

Read first time 02/16/2000. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

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 integrated and highly individualized mental
15 health and chemical abuse treatment that emphasizes low caseloads, home
16 or residence-based services, is time-determinate to the extent
17 appropriate, focuses on the juvenile's peer and social structures,
18 promotes reduction of factors associated with reoffending, and
19 emphasizes prosocial contacts and behaviors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (e) Will remain under the supervision of the secretary for at least
2 six months following release from total confinement.

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

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

10 (a) Lowering the risk of reoffending;

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

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

13 (d) Achieving abstinence from unlawful use of controlled substances
14 and alcohol;

15 (e) Reducing the incidents of mental health decompensation and the
16 need for inpatient mental health services; and

17 (f) Increasing prosocial behavior.

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

19 (a) Include intensive case management and treatment with a client-
20 to-staff ratio not to exceed seven offenders to each case manager;

21 (b) Be available at any time;

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

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

30 (e) Include a systematic effort to engage offenders to continuously
31 involve themselves in current and long-term treatment and appropriate
32 rehabilitative activities;

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

35 (g) Provide assistance in applying for all appropriate federal,
36 state, and private support for which the offender is eligible;

37 (h) Include access to daily activities such as school, drop-in
38 centers, prevocational and vocational training and jobs, and volunteer
39 activities.

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

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

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

10 (1) An assessment of the implementation of the pilot program across
11 the state;

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

14 (3) A qualitative description of the services provided in the
15 program;

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

18 (5) Whether the participants improve their education attendance and
19 skills;

20 (6) Improvements in employability;

21 (7) Verifiable abstinence from unlawful use of controlled
22 substances and alcohol;

23 (8) Compliance with medication regimens;

24 (9) Increase in prosocial contacts and behaviors, including peer
25 interactions and free-time activities and stability of appropriate
26 living situations; and

27 (10) Reductions in the incidents of mental health decompensation.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
29 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
30 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
31 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act expire July
2 1, 2004.

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