

5845-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections
(originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Costa, Long, Winsley and
Kohl-Welles)

Brief Description: Regulating siting of sex offender treatment
facilities.

SB 5845-S.E - DIGEST

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 3/14/01)

Declares an intent to:

(1) Enhance public safety and maximize the potential for
successful treatment of sexually violent predators through the
secure and tightly controlled use of less restrictive alternatives
in community-based secure housing facilities;

(2) Maximize the safety of communities in which secure
facilities are located and ensure public input into secure housing
facilities by enabling community participation in decisions
involving these essential public facilities;

(3) Comply with federal court orders and require the siting of
less restrictive alternative housing facilities and to preclude the
possibility that the department of social and health services would
be unable to site a facility due to local moratoriums and
requirements;

(4) Require the department to work with local jurisdictions to
address specific local concerns and develop zoning requirements and
development regulations that balance the need for siting with
public safety; and

(5) Improve public safety by strengthening the safeguards in
placement, oversight, and monitoring of the persons released to a
less restrictive alternative in a secure residential facility, and
by establishing minimum standards for the siting and operation of
secure residential facilities.

Finds that community participation in siting and oversight is
vital to the success of secure facilities for less restrictive
alternatives.