

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1824

As Passed House:

March 14, 2003

Title: An act relating to developing criteria to ensure quality control in research-based treatment programs for juveniles.

Brief Description: Requiring development of criteria for research-based treatment programs for juveniles.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Law (originally sponsored by Representatives Pettigrew, Miloscia, Kagi, Darneille and Schual-Berke).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Juvenile Justice & Family Law: 2/18/03, 2/27/03 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/14/03, 94-0.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Directs the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to develop criteria that can be used by the Legislature and agencies to help ensure quality control and competent delivery of research-based treatment services to youth.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE & FAMILY LAW

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Dickerson, Chair; Pettigrew, Vice Chair; Delvin, Ranking Minority Member; Carrell, Eickmeyer, Hinkle and Upthegrove.

Staff: Trudes Tango Hutcheson (786-7384).

Background:

The 2001 Legislature directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to study the state's juvenile justice system for the purposes of, among other things, reviewing the costs and benefits of existing juvenile programs and recommending changes that could lead to an improved use of state money.

Based on its study, the WSIPP made several recommendations to the Legislature. One recommendation was to require state-funded treatment programs for juvenile offenders to demonstrate a quality-control process. The WSIPP report stated that research-based programs work, but only when implemented competently.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The Legislature finds that effective quality control within research-based treatment programs is vital to making those programs work.

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy must develop general criteria that can be used as a measuring tool for state agencies to ensure quality control and competent delivery of treatment services to youth. The criteria must include measures for ongoing and accurate monitoring and tracking of competent treatment delivery, and for continual improvement of treatment delivery.

For the purposes of determining funding, the Legislature may require an agency to demonstrate how it has met the criteria. The WSIPP must develop and present the criteria to the Legislature by January 1, 2004.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The WSIPP would develop the criteria. It is important to make sure that the programs for youth are being implemented in a competent way.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: (In support) Representative Pettigrew, prime sponsor.