
SENATE BILL 5991

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Parlette, Regala, Carlson, McAuliffe and Winsley

Read first time 02/27/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to changing minimum requirements for the existing
2 secure community transition facility; amending RCW 71.09.300; repealing
3 RCW 71.09.270; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 71.09.300 and 2001 2nd sp.s. c 12 s 216 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) Secure community transition facilities shall meet the following
8 minimum staffing requirements:

9 (a)(i) At any time the census of a facility that accepts its first
10 resident before July 1, 2003, is six or fewer residents, the facility
11 shall maintain a minimum staffing ratio of one staff per three
12 residents during normal waking hours and one awake staff per four
13 residents during normal sleeping hours. In no case shall the staffing
14 ratio permit less than two staff per housing unit.

15 (ii) At any time the census of a facility that accepts its first
16 resident on or after July 1, 2003, is six or fewer residents, the
17 facility shall maintain a minimum staffing ratio of one staff per
18 resident during normal waking hours and two awake staff per three

1 residents during normal sleeping hours. In no case shall the staffing
2 ratio permit less than two staff per housing unit.

3 (b) At any time the census of a facility is six or fewer residents,
4 all staff shall be classified as residential rehabilitation counselor
5 II or have a classification that indicates a higher level of skill,
6 experience, and training.

7 (c) Before being assigned to a facility, all staff shall have
8 training in sex offender issues, self-defense, and crisis de-escalation
9 skills in addition to departmental orientation and, as appropriate,
10 management training. All staff with resident treatment or care duties
11 must participate in ongoing in-service training.

12 (d) All staff must pass a departmental background check and the
13 check is not subject to the limitations in chapter 9.96A RCW. A person
14 who has been convicted of a felony, or any sex offense, may not be
15 employed at the secure community transition facility or be approved as
16 an escort for a resident of the facility.

17 (2) With respect to the facility established pursuant to RCW
18 71.09.250(1), the department shall, no later than December 1, 2001,
19 provide a staffing plan to the appropriate committees of the
20 legislature that will cover the growth of that facility to its full
21 capacity.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. RCW 71.09.270 (Transition facility--Law
23 enforcement presence) and 2001 2nd sp.s. c 12 s 210 are each repealed.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. If any provision of this act or its
25 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
26 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
27 persons or circumstances is not affected.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate
29 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
30 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
31 July 1, 2003.

--- END ---