

SHB 1426 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services & Corrections

ADOPTED 04/11/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children of
4 incarcerated parents face significant obstacles in their lives. In
5 many cases, these children have witnessed the arrest of a parent, face
6 unstable living arrangements and multiple school placements, live under
7 financial hardship, and experience the social stigma associated with
8 their parents' incarceration. As a result of these factors, children
9 of incarcerated parents are at risk for poor academic achievement,
10 substance abuse, and delinquency and criminal activity that can lead to
11 their own incarceration.

12 The legislature intends to support children in the state whose
13 parents are incarcerated by encouraging the state agencies involved
14 with families of individuals who are incarcerated to coordinate and
15 expand existing services for these families in order to improve the
16 well-being of children of incarcerated parents both over the short term
17 and the long term.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of corrections, in
19 partnership with the department of social and health services, shall
20 establish an oversight committee to develop a comprehensive interagency
21 plan to provide the necessary services and supports for the children of
22 this state whose parents are incarcerated in jail or prison.

23 (2) The interagency plan shall include the following:

24 (a) Identification of existing state services and programs, as well
25 as recognized community-based services and programs, for children whose
26 parents are incarcerated;

27 (b) Identification of methods to improve collaboration and
28 coordination of existing services and programs;

1 (c) Recommendations concerning new services and programs for
2 children whose parents are incarcerated, involving both interagency and
3 community-based efforts; and

4 (d) Identification of evidence-based practices and areas for
5 further research to support the long-term provision of services and
6 programs for children whose parents are incarcerated, including the
7 following:

8 (i) Identification and ongoing collection of data relating to
9 incarcerated individuals in the state who have children under eighteen
10 years of age; and

11 (ii) Identification and sharing of information relating to children
12 of incarcerated parents who are involved in the juvenile justice or
13 child welfare systems, to the extent permissible under state and
14 federal law.

15 (3) The oversight committee shall include the following:

16 (a) Representatives with decision-making authority of: The
17 department of corrections, the children's administration of the
18 department of social and health services, the juvenile rehabilitation
19 administration of the department of social and health services, the
20 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the office of
21 superintendent of public instruction, the courts, prosecuting attorneys
22 and public defenders, and community-based agencies working with
23 families of individuals who are incarcerated; and

24 (b) Caregivers of children whose parents are incarcerated.

25 (4) The oversight committee shall seek input from children whose
26 parents are or have been incarcerated and from parents who have been
27 incarcerated in developing the interagency plan.

28 (5) The oversight committee shall develop the interagency plan by
29 June 30, 2006, with an interim report due to the appropriate committees
30 of the legislature by January 1, 2006."

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1 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "parents;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

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