
SENATE BILL 6790

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Stevens, Regala, Shin, Kline, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/24/08. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot program for the education of
2 inmates; amending RCW 72.09.465; adding new sections to chapter 72.09
3 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department shall establish a pilot
6 program for the purpose of assessing the impact of inmate participation
7 in two-year postsecondary education degree programs within state
8 correctional institutions.

9 (2) The department shall select two state correctional institutions
10 as sites for the pilot program no later than November 1, 2008. In
11 selecting the pilot sites, priority shall be given to those state
12 correctional institutions that have had contracts, within the previous
13 two years, with an accredited community college to provide
14 postsecondary educational services to inmates. The department shall
15 consider for inclusion in the pilot program any two-year postsecondary
16 education degree program from an accredited community college that is
17 part of an associate of arts degree program or that is intended to
18 provide the first two years of the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree
19 program, provided that priority shall be given to those community

1 colleges that have demonstrated a history of contributing or
2 demonstrates a future potential for contributing nonstate resources to
3 the pilot program, such as volunteer staff.

4 (3) In selecting inmates to participate in the pilot program,
5 priority shall be given to inmates:

6 (a) Whose individual reentry plan under RCW 72.09.270 includes
7 postsecondary education degree program participation; and

8 (b) Whose remaining period of incarceration will be no less than
9 two-years but no more than four years at the commencement of
10 participation in the pilot program.

11 (4) The pilot program established by this section shall begin
12 providing services by March 1, 2009, and shall extend for an additional
13 period of four fiscal years, beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June
14 30, 2012.

15 (5) Inmates shall not be required to pay the costs of participation
16 in any two-year postsecondary education degree programs, including
17 books, fees, tuition, or any other appropriate ancillary costs, if
18 costs are incurred as a result of participating in the pilot program
19 established under this section.

20 (6) The department may accept any and all donations and grants of
21 money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services from any third
22 party including, but not limited to, nonprofit entities, and may
23 receive, utilize, and dispose of the same to provide postsecondary
24 education to inmates participating in the pilot program established
25 under this section. Any funds collected by the department under this
26 subsection shall be used solely for the creation, maintenance, or
27 expansion of inmate educational and vocational programs.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
29 public policy shall evaluate the pilot program established under
30 section 1 of this act and shall make a preliminary report to the
31 governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,
32 2015, and a final report by September 30, 2018.

33 (2) The evaluation of the pilot program shall include whether the
34 pilot program:

35 (a) Is cost-effective;

36 (b) Results in better employment and income outcomes for inmates
37 participating in the program;

- 1 (c) Affects maintenance of stable housing in the community; and
2 (d) Impacts recidivism.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 72.09.465 and 2007 c 483 s 403 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The department shall, if funds are appropriated for the
6 specific purpose, implement postsecondary education degree programs
7 within state correctional institutions, including the state
8 correctional institution with the largest population of female inmates.
9 The department shall consider for inclusion in any postsecondary
10 education degree program, any postsecondary education degree program
11 from an accredited community college, college, or university that is
12 part of an associate of arts, baccalaureate, masters of arts, or other
13 graduate degree program.

14 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section and
15 section 1 of this act, inmates shall be required to pay the costs for
16 participation in any postsecondary education degree programs
17 established under this (~~subsection [section]~~) section, including
18 books, fees, tuition, or any other appropriate ancillary costs, by one
19 or more of the following means:

20 (a) The inmate who is participating in the postsecondary education
21 degree program shall, during confinement, provide the required payment
22 or payments to the department; or

23 (b) A third party shall provide the required payment or payments
24 directly to the department on behalf of an inmate, and such payments
25 shall not be subject to any of the deductions as provided in this
26 chapter.

27 (3) The department may accept any and all donations and grants of
28 money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services from any third
29 party, including but not limited to nonprofit entities, and may
30 receive, utilize, and dispose of same to provide postsecondary
31 education to inmates.

32 (4) Any funds collected by the department under this section (~~and~~
33 ~~RCW 72.09.450(4)~~) shall be used solely for the creation, maintenance,
34 or expansion of inmate postsecondary education degree programs.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Nothing in this act creates an entitlement
36 for an inmate to receive services or funding under the pilot program

1 established in this act, nor an obligation for the department to
2 commence or maintain programs of higher education except as otherwise
3 provided by law.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
5 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
6 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
7 void.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are each added
9 to chapter 72.09 RCW.

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