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SENATE BILL 6175

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Hargrove, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 04/16/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to correctional cost savings; and creating a new  
2 section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds the need to effect  
5 cost savings through the possible use of sentencing changes, prison  
6 releases, prison closures, and decreased supervision. The legislature  
7 believes that through the use of strategic cuts and efficient use of  
8 resources, it can maintain current levels of community safety. The  
9 state intends to keep a close watch on projected incarceration trends  
10 and is prepared to recommend capital prison projects if needed.

11            While research supports the cost benefit of incarcerating  
12 individuals who have violent tendencies and who are at a high risk to  
13 reoffend, it also shows that there is little benefit to the public in  
14 incarcerating nonviolent criminals. Punishment is a necessary  
15 component of the justice system; however, the state must find more  
16 cost-effective means of dealing with these criminals in a manner that  
17 benefits the taxpayer and public safety.

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