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**SENATE BILL 6558**

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**State of Washington 66th Legislature 2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Nguyen, Darneille, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Saldaña, and Wilson, C.

AN ACT Relating to contracting with private correctional facilities for the transfer or placement of offenders; amending RCW 72.68.040, 72.68.010, and 72.68.001; reenacting and amending RCW 72.09.050; adding a new section to chapter 72.68 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW 72.68.012.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature finds that the type of institution an individual is incarcerated in can have a direct impact on rates of recidivism. The legislature further finds that incarcerating persons in private correctional entities, which have business models dependent on rates of incarceration, may increase the likelihood of those persons recidivating. The legislature resolves that public safety and financial and humanitarian interests are furthered by decreased rates of recidivism. The legislature intends to eliminate the utilization of private correctional entities by Washington state and to allow utilization of private correctional entities in only the most narrow and rare circumstances, in cases of emergency and when security and safety demand.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 72.68 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section and RCW 72.68.010(2), the secretary is prohibited from utilizing a contract with a private correctional entity for the transfer or placement of offenders.

(2) This section does not apply to:

(a) State work release centers, juvenile residential facilities, nonprofit community-based alternative juvenile detention facilities, or nonprofit community-based alternative adult detention facilities that provide separate care or special treatment, operated in whole or in part by for-profit contractors;

(b) Contracts for ancillary services including, but not limited to, medical services, educational services, repair and maintenance contracts, behavioral health services, or other services not directly related to the ownership, management, or operation of security services in a correctional facility; or

(c) Tribal entities.

**Sec.**  RCW 72.09.050 and 1999 c 309 s 1902 and 1999 c 309 s 924 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

The secretary shall manage the department of corrections and shall be responsible for the administration of adult correctional programs, including, but not limited to, the operation of all state correctional institutions or facilities used for the confinement of convicted felons. In addition, the secretary shall have broad powers to enter into agreements with any federal agency, or any other state, or any Washington state agency or local government providing for the operation of any correctional facility or program for persons convicted of felonies or misdemeanors or for juvenile offenders. Such agreements for counties with local law and justice councils shall be required in the local law and justice plan pursuant to RCW 72.09.300. The agreements may provide for joint operation or operation by the department of corrections, alone, for by any of the other governmental entities, alone. ((~~Beginning February 1, 1999, the secretary may expend funds appropriated for the 1997-1999 biennium to enter into agreements with any local government or private organization in any other state, providing for the operation of any correctional facility or program for persons convicted of felonies. Between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2001, the secretary may expend funds appropriated for the 1999-01 biennium to enter into agreements with any local government or private organization in any other state, providing for the operation of any correctional facility or program for persons convicted of felonies.~~)) The secretary may employ persons to aid in performing the functions and duties of the department. The secretary may delegate any of his or her functions or duties to department employees, including the authority to certify and maintain custody of records and documents on file with the department. The secretary is authorized to promulgate standards for the department of corrections within appropriation levels authorized by the legislature.

Pursuant to the authority granted in chapter 34.05 RCW, the secretary shall adopt rules providing for inmate restitution when restitution is determined appropriate as a result of a disciplinary action.

**Sec.**  RCW 72.68.040 and 2012 c 117 s 500 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The secretary may contract with the authorities of the federal government, or the authorities of any state of the United States, private companies in other states, or any county or city in this state providing for the detention in an institution or jail operated by such entity, for prisoners convicted of a felony in the courts of this state and sentenced to a term of imprisonment therefor in a state correctional institution for convicted felons under the jurisdiction of the department. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, after the making of a contract under this section, prisoners sentenced to a term of imprisonment in a state correctional institution for convicted felons may be conveyed by the superintendent or his or her assistants to the institution or jail named in the contract. The prisoners shall be delivered to the authorities of the institution or jail, there to be confined until their sentences have expired or they are otherwise discharged by law, paroled, or until they are returned to a state correctional institution for convicted felons for further confinement.

(2) A prisoner may not be conveyed to a private correctional entity except under the circumstances identified in RCW 72.68.010(2) or section 2(2) of this act.

**Sec.**  RCW 72.68.010 and 2000 c 62 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Whenever in its judgment the best interests of the state or the welfare of any prisoner confined in any penal institution will be better served by his or her transfer to another institution or to a foreign country of which the prisoner is a citizen or national, the secretary may effect such transfer consistent with applicable federal laws and treaties. The secretary has the authority to transfer offenders between in-state correctional facilities or to out-of-state ((~~to private or~~)) governmental institutions, if the secretary determines that transfer is in the best interest of the state or the offender.

(2) The secretary has the authority to transfer offenders to an out-of-state private correctional entity only if the governor finds that an emergency exists such that the population of a state correctional facility exceeds its reasonable, maximum capacity resulting in safety and security concerns, the governor has considered all other legal options to address capacity including those pursuant to RCW 9.94A.870, and the secretary determines that transfer is in the best interest of the state or the offender.

(3) The determination of what is in the best interest of the state or offender may include, but is not limited to, considerations of overcrowding, emergency conditions, or hardship to the offender. In determining whether the transfer will impose a hardship on the offender, the secretary shall consider: (a) The location of the offender's family and whether the offender has maintained contact with members of his or her family; (b) whether, if the offender has maintained contact, the contact will be significantly disrupted by the transfer due to the family's inability to maintain the contact as a result of the transfer; and (c) whether the offender is enrolled in a vocational or educational program that cannot reasonably be resumed if the offender is returned to the state.

((~~(2)~~)) (4) If directed by the governor, the secretary shall, in carrying out this section and RCW 43.06.350, adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW to effect the transfer of prisoners requesting transfer to foreign countries.

**Sec.**  RCW 72.68.001 and 1981 c 136 s 114 are each amended to read as follows:

((~~As used in this chapter:~~)) The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of corrections((~~; and~~)).

(2) "Private correctional entity" means a for-profit contractor or for-profit vendor who provides services relating to the ownership, management, or administration of security services of a correctional facility for the incarceration of persons.

(3) "Secretary" means the secretary of corrections.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  RCW 72.68.012 (Transfer to private institutions—Intent—Authority) and 2000 c 62 s 1 are each repealed.

**--- END ---**