

HB 2210 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature is committed to helping  
4 incarcerated persons successfully rejoin society after their release.  
5 In Washington, correctional industries is an important stepping stone  
6 for incarcerated persons to transition from a life behind bars to a  
7 free, law-abiding, and productive life in the community. These  
8 vocational and occupational programs are proven to promote  
9 rehabilitation and redemption, reduce recidivism, and improve public  
10 safety. The legislature intends to study the development of  
11 strategies for expanding these programs offered to incarcerated  
12 persons. To that end, correctional industries is hereby directed to  
13 evaluate the wild horse training and holding program in Arizona,  
14 which is conducted in partnership with Arizona correctional  
15 industries and the federal bureau of land management, for the purpose  
16 of implementing a similar program in Washington. Participants in the  
17 Arizona program have successfully and skillfully cared for and  
18 trained wild horses, which were then adopted or purchased by the  
19 public through the bureau of land management wild horse and burro  
20 program. Program participants use gentling techniques based in  
21 natural horsemanship and gain equestrian skills they can use when  
22 seeking employment or building businesses after being released. In  
23 the process, participants also build self-confidence and learn the  
24 value of patience, warmth, and respect for all living things. Early  
25 research indicates that participants in the Arizona program have  
26 significantly lower recidivism rates than the rest of the prison  
27 population, less than 15 percent as compared to 40 percent. The  
28 legislature recognizes the Arizona program as a potential model for  
29 developing a similar program at a state corrections center.

30 Further, establishing a similar training and holding program  
31 would create an opportunity to address the statewide shortage of  
32 farriers resulting from the closure of the farrier program at Walla

1 Walla Community College. A partnership between Walla Walla Community  
2 College and correctional industries would assist with meeting the  
3 demand for farrier services while also creating even more employment  
4 opportunities for persons leaving correctional institutions.

5 Therefore, the legislature hereby directs correctional industries  
6 to conduct a feasibility study and develop an implementation plan for  
7 the purpose of establishing a wild horse training, holding, and  
8 farrier program at a state corrections center.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of corrections, through  
10 correctional industries, shall conduct a feasibility study and  
11 develop a plan for implementing a wild horse training, holding, and  
12 farrier program at a state corrections center. The program must be  
13 designed in partnership with the federal bureau of land management  
14 wild horse and burro program, for the purpose of assisting  
15 incarcerated persons with developing occupational, vocational, and  
16 life skills.

17 (2) In conducting the study and developing an implementation  
18 plan, the department shall create an advisory committee consisting of  
19 representatives of the bureau of land management wild horse and burro  
20 program, the state department of natural resources, the state  
21 department of agriculture, federally recognized tribes, Walla Walla  
22 Community College, Washington State University, other appropriate  
23 state and federal agencies, local governments, experts in the field  
24 of wild horse management and training, horse rescue and  
25 rehabilitation, and other relevant entities as determined by the  
26 department. The department must:

27 (a) Ensure the plan will define natural horsemanship and use it  
28 as a basis for gentling and training;

29 (b) Evaluate and consult with similar programs in other states,  
30 including reviewing existing agreements with the bureau of land  
31 management and participating tribes, and studying operations and  
32 facilities used by those programs;

33 (c) Develop design and construction options for holding and  
34 training program facilities, which must include a consideration of:  
35 (i) The safety and welfare of incarcerated persons and staff; (ii)  
36 maintaining appropriate levels of security for a correctional  
37 institution; (iii) the welfare of the horses and the facilities  
38 necessary to support the proposed number of horses; and (iv) sourcing

1 cost-effective materials, including repurposing materials from  
2 existing facilities;

3 (d) Determine the costs of establishing and maintaining  
4 operations, facilities, and staff for a holding program to feed, care  
5 for, and restore bureau of land management horses and burros as well  
6 as for a training program, which must consider: Utilizing  
7 correctional industries for constructing, maintaining, and operating  
8 facilities; financial support from the bureau of land management for  
9 holding the horses; and leveraging other available federal funding;

10 (e) Evaluate the availability of land necessary to support the  
11 program, which must include an evaluation of: (i) Current state  
12 property and adjacent private or public property available for lease  
13 or acquisition to be used for hay production, with the goal of  
14 promoting agricultural and farming skills through the holding and  
15 training program; (ii) current state property and adjacent private or  
16 public property available for lease or acquisition to be used for  
17 training facilities and holding facilities; and (iii) the water  
18 necessary and available for operations, including well water and  
19 surface water sourced from the region;

20 (f) Evaluate the steps necessary to develop a partnership with  
21 Walla Walla Community College for the purpose of establishing a  
22 course for qualifying participants to obtain a farrier certificate to  
23 be completed in conjunction with the wild horse training program. The  
24 course may also include a business basics class or component to  
25 assist participants with managing their farrier careers following  
26 their release. The evaluation shall assess the demand for farrier  
27 services and the outlook for participants in the program to find  
28 employment as farriers. The evaluation shall also assess appropriate  
29 qualifications for participants including, but not limited to, risk  
30 to public safety and disqualifying convictions;

31 (g) Consult with Washington State University to determine whether  
32 the college of veterinary medicine may have students practice care at  
33 the training and holding facilities;

34 (h) Develop a procedure to exclude incarcerated individuals who  
35 have been convicted of animal cruelty offenses from participating in  
36 the program;

37 (i) Develop protocols to ensure the welfare of horses from the  
38 time the horses enter the program and following their exit from the  
39 program, and to ensure horses in the program are not sold, traded,  
40 bartered, or given away for the purposes of slaughter;

1 (j) Study and evaluate the potential for the use of wild horses  
2 present on federal lands and within the external boundaries of  
3 federally recognized tribes within the state of Washington including,  
4 but not limited to, the Yakama Reservation. The study must include  
5 consultation with interested federally recognized tribes; and

6 (k) Assess any changes to state statutes or department policies  
7 necessary to implement the program.

8 (3) The department shall prepare a draft report that shall be  
9 made available for review and comment by the advisory committee  
10 established under this section. The department shall also make the  
11 draft report available for a 30-day public review and comment period  
12 and publish a summary of any public comments received. The department  
13 shall complete the study and submit a final report and implementation  
14 plan to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature no  
15 later than June 1, 2025."

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

EFFECT: Alters the intent to study the development of strategies for expanding vocational and occupational programs for incarcerated persons. Requires DOC to form an advisory committee with the list of representatives from other government agencies and stakeholders, and adds representatives from horse rescue and rehabilitation and federally recognized tribes to the advisory committee. Adds review of existing agreements with participating tribes in the evaluation and consultation with similar programs in other states. Requires the plan to define natural horsemanship and use it as a basis for gentling and training. Requires DOC to assess the demand for farrier services and the outlook for participants in the program to find employment as farriers, and assess appropriate qualifications for participants including, but not limited to, risk to public safety and disqualifying convictions. Requires DOC to develop a procedure for excluding incarcerated individuals who have been convicted of animal cruelty offenses from participating in the program. Directs DOC to develop protocols to ensure the welfare of horses from entry to exit from the program so that horses are not sold, traded, bartered, or given away for purposes of slaughter. Requires DOC to study and evaluate the potential for the use of wild horses present on federal lands and within the external boundaries of federally recognized tribes within the state including, but not limited to, the Yakama Reservation. Provides that DOC must make a draft report available for review and comment by the advisory committee and make the draft

report available for a 30-day public review and comment period and publish a summary of public comments received. Extends the report date from November 1, 2024, to June 1, 2025.

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